

Girard Academic Music Program 5th-12th

Grade Course Catalog

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Mathematics

Course Name: Mathematics 5

Course Description: In Mathematic 5, students acquire mathematical building blocks that serve as a foundation for higher level math courses. The following mathematical standards will be taught and practiced: Write and interpret numerical expressions, analyze patterns and relationships, understand the place-value system, perform operations with multidigit whole numbers and decimals, use equivalent fractions to add and subtract fractions, multiply and divide fractions, convert measurement units, represent and interpret data, understand concepts of volume, graph points on a coordinate plane, and classify two-dimensional figures. Mathematics 5 will require students to apply knowledge of the material taught to real world situations and problem solving.

Course Name: Mathematics 6

Course Description: Mathematics 6 provides a solid foundation by covering topics such as expressions, equations, graphing, measurement, and statistics. Prime numbers, factoring, and divisibility rules will be taught, and students will continue to practice operations involving fractions and decimals. Ratios and percentages are introduced and practiced. Students are also taught to collect and interpret data and display their findings through graphs. Students will learn to recognize patterns, work with variables, and determine how integers are used in real-world situations. Geometry concepts will be explored. Mathematics 6 will require students to apply knowledge of the material taught to real world situations and problem solving.

Course Name: Mathematics 7

Course Description: Math 7 is a course designed to provide students with instruction of the core curriculum. Students will explore arithmetic operations, ratios, rates, proportions, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability, and an introduction to algebraic concepts and reasoning. Mathematics 7 will require students to apply knowledge of the material taught to real world situations and problem solving.

Course Name: Algebra I

Course Description: Algebra I provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced math courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem-solving situations. The concept of functions is emphasized throughout the course. Topics include: operations with real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, operations involving polynomials, nonlinear equations and more.

Course Name: Geometry

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1.

Course Description: This Euclidian geometry course begins with the axioms: point, line and plane and expands and develops these ideas into a system of mathematics. Inductive and deductive reasoning, proofs, construction, are emphasized to teach properties and relationships involving triangles, circles, polygons etc. Some coordinate geometry is included in the course.

Course Name: Algebra 2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1.

Course Description: This course is an extension of Algebra 1. The topics to be covered include operations and properties of real numbers, solutions of linear and quadratic equations. Further topics for study include, sequences and series, complex numbers, polynomial functions, quadratic systems, rational functions, logarithms, etc. Applications and problem solving will be emphasized.

Course Name: Pre-calculus

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 2 and a recommendation from a math teacher.

Course Description: The focus of this course is to review algebraic topics and introduce trigonometry in preparation for a college calculus course. Functions such as linear, quadratic, polynomial, and trigonometric are continually stressed throughout the course. An emphasis is placed on test taking skills and calculator usage.

Course Name: Calculus Honors

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Pre-calculus and a recommendation from a math teacher.

Course Description: Topics include a brief review of polynomials, trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions, followed by discussion of limits, derivatives, and applications of differential calculus to real-world problem areas. An introduction to integration concludes the course.

Course Name: Statistics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 2.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a basic understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics and introductory probability. Topics include the measures of central tendency, standard deviation, combinations and permutations, probability, sampling, and various distributions. Emphasis is on applications of statistical concepts.

Course Name: Advanced Placement Statistics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 2 and the recommendation of your Algebra 2 teacher.

Course Description: *An introductory statistics course, similar to the AP Statistics course, is typically required for majors such as social sciences, health sciences and business. The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

- 1) Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
- 2) Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
- 3) Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
- 4) Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses.

** From the College Board AP Website*

English

Course Name: Reading 5

Course Description: Students will explore several types of literature. Vocabulary skills, practicing word analysis and decoding, determining the meaning of unknown words, and understanding word relationships, are a key focus of this course. Grammar and language skills such as sentence types, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are also taught. Students will also learn proper writing strategies and techniques throughout the year. Descriptive, narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive pieces will be written, while learning and using the steps of the writing process. Students will use pieces of literature to focus on plot, main idea, characters, and other literary elements. There is an emphasis on reading and understanding informational texts, and comprehension strategies to use before, during, and after reading. Students will learn and understand structure, theme, and figurative language. Listening and speaking skills are refined as students become engaged in group discussions and demonstrate effective communication skills.

Course Name: Reading 6

Course Description: Reading 6 explores several types of literature. Students will read and analyze intriguing stories written by famous and influential authors. The course will cover the writing process and effective writing techniques, and students will produce their own pieces of literature in multiple genres, including short stories, compare-contrast essays, how-to essays, and numerous other responses to literature. Proper conventions of grammar are reinforced, including nouns, pronouns, adjectives, relative and interrogative pronouns, verbs, adverbs, prepositional phrases, adjective phrases, simple sentence structure, punctuating words in a series, and understanding and using clauses.

Course Name: English 7

Course Description: Students will develop their skills in oral and written communication focusing on four basic areas: grammar, spelling, composition and literature. Embedded in the course of study are nonfiction analyses, research, and writing in all modes: narrative, informational, and persuasive. This course is also designed to prepare students for 8th Grade English and advanced vocabulary development.

Course Name: English 8

Course Description: Students will continue to improve their reading skills via the exploration of non-fiction and prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts. They will become skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. In addition, there will be a focus on improving their skills in oral and written communication within four basic areas: grammar, spelling, composition and literature. This course is designed to prepare students for the PSSA, high school English and advanced vocabulary development.

Course Name: English 1

Course Description: Instruction in grade 9 is designed to review and reinforce the skills acquired in grades 1-8. The goal is to have students sharpen and polish those skills, so they may begin to apply what they have learned to more challenging reading, writing, and thinking activities. English I begins a close analysis of fiction and the author's craft. Students will focus on grammar, etymology, vocabulary development, and the writing process. Embedded in the course of study are nonfiction analyses, research, and writing in all modes: narrative, informational, and persuasive. A balance of fiction, non-fiction, prose and poetry is established. Students engage in informational, persuasive, and narrative writing while preparing for the PSAT, SAT, and Keystone. As a part of this writing instruction, there will be a focus on the essential skills of writing, including grammar, punctuation, mechanics, etc...

Course Name: English 2

Prerequisite: English 1

Course Description: The English Two curriculum focuses on literature from around the world that explores the themes of Social Justice, political philosophies and ideologies through centuries and across cultures. A balance of fiction, nonfiction, prose and poetry is established. Students engage in informational, persuasive, and narrative writing while preparing for the PSAT, SAT, and Keystone. As a part of this writing instruction, there will be a focus on the essential skills of writing, including grammar, punctuation, mechanics, etc...

Course Name: English 3**Prerequisite:** English 1 and English 2

Course Description: Students will apply the skills learned in grade 9 and practiced in grade 10 to more challenging texts and writing assignments. The focus is on “Finding America” through an analysis of American literature that is explored both chronologically and thematically. Literary analysis is in the forefront of the instructional program but is coupled with informational texts to further students’ depth of understanding. This will encourage students to grow in their understanding of the evolution of the American identity. Students will learn the elements of style and rhetoric as they prepare to become more critical readers, writers, and thinkers. Informational and persuasive writing are also emphasized in English III. Reading, writing, and literary analysis are designed to prepare students for independent learning and assessments such as the PSAT and SAT.

Course Name: English 4**Prerequisite:** English 1, English 2 and either English 3 or an AP English

Course Description: The twelfth grade English curriculum prepares students for higher education, lifelong learning, and the journey into the adult world. Within the overarching theme of “The Self and Society,” students read, write, analyze and research increasingly complex literary and informational texts. The course also allows students to design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation on a topic of individual interest. Through this inquiry and investigation, students demonstrate the ability to apply scholarly understanding to real-world problems and issues, ultimately culminating in a capstone research paper and symposium-styled presentation.

Course Name: AP English Language and Composition (2019, 2021,...)**(Alternates every year with AP English Literature and Composition)****Prerequisites:** English 1, English 2, a minimum of an “A” average in current English course, writing samples, and a recommendation by the current year English teacher.

Course Description: This course engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. The course requires students to write in informal contexts (e.g., imitation exercises, journal keeping, collaborative writing, in-class responses) designed to help them become increasingly aware of themselves as writers and of the techniques employed by the writers they read. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer’s purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as the way genre conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The course teaches research skills and, in particular, the ability to evaluate, use and cite primary and secondary sources. The course assigns projects such as the researched argument paper, which asks students to present an argument of their own that includes the analysis and synthesis of ideas from an array of sources. Creative writing assignments and projects are also part of the curriculum.

Course Name: AP English Literature and Composition (2018, 2020,...)**(Alternates every year with AP English Language and Composition)****Prerequisites:** English 1, English 2, a minimum of an “A” average in current English course, writing samples, and a recommendation by the current year English teacher.

Course Description: This course includes intensive study of representative works from various genres and periods—from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries. This is meant to increase students’ familiarity with canonical works and deepen their store and scope of said works. Students engage in the careful reading and critical analysis of literature in order to deepen their understanding and appreciation. As they read, students focus on a work’s structure, style, and theme as well as the use of literary devices. Writing and vocabulary study are integral parts of the course. Writing assignments focus on the critical analysis of literature and include expository, analytical, and persuasive essays. Research and creative writing assignments and projects are also parts of the curriculum.

Science

Course Name: Science 5

Course Description: In Science 5, the students will study the Next Generation Science Standards for Force and Motion, Our Universe, Interactions in Ecosystems, and Thinking Like a Scientist. An emphasis is placed on how scientists make observations and how scientists use observations to understand the universe.

Course Name: Science 6

Course Description: Science 6 engages students in the remarkable world of science. Students will become mini-scientists while investigating and gaining an understanding of important topics in science. A primary focus in the beginning of the year is on Earth and Landforms. Then we move into Astronomy such as the creation of our solar system and the planet Earth with an emphasis of its fascinating features. The second part of the year focuses on ecosystems, habitats, and the constructive and destructive forces that affect our planet.

Course Name: Science 7

Course Description: Science 7 explores many aspects of science, including life, physical, Earth, and space sciences. Students will explore the cell and all of its working parts before being introduced to Earth's organisms and their processes. Students will be given the chance to identify cells and cell compounds, and describe the cell in its environment. Learners will then examine different cell processes that lead to energy within the cell. Genetics and heredity will also be explored. Adaptation, natural selection, and the evolution of organisms is examined. Students will investigate the Earth's weather and climate as well as examine types of sound and light energy.

Course Name: Physical Science 8

Course Description: Science 8 is designed to ensure an understanding of the dimensions of science as it relates to life processes at the molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological levels. Students will explore life science concepts such as classification of organisms, biological organization and hierarchy, genetics and heredity, evolution, ecosystems, and a primer in physical chemistry.

Course Name: Biology

Course Description: This course is a credit requirement for graduation as well as the preparation for the state Biology Keystone exam, which students must pass to graduate high school. The course is designed to help students understand the dimensions of science as it relates to life processes at the molecular, cellular, organismal, and ecological levels. Students will explore concepts such as the characteristics of organisms, processes and functions of organisms, molecular basis of inheritance, and the types of relationships among organisms and their environments. They will also explore the curriculum using inquiry, lecture, and lab investigations.

Course Name: Chemistry

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology

Course Description: This course is a requirement for graduation. We will take an in-depth look into the world of Chemistry through projects, labs, research, demonstrations, and lectures. Students must be prepared to perform various calculations, as Chemistry is essentially a mathematics-based science course.

Course Name: Honors Chemistry

Prerequisites: An 87 or higher in both Biology and Algebra, scored Advanced on the Algebra Keystone and proficient on the Biology Keystone. Students that apply will also take a placement test. These scores will be used in conjunction with grades to determine eligibility for the course.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who are intending to major in a scientific field at the collegiate level. The main difference between this course and the General Chemistry course is the pacing; the Honors course will proceed at a significantly higher rate relative to the General Chemistry course. This will allow these students to gain experience in a larger portion of content material that they will need in order to succeed at the next level. Students will participate in labs, conduct research, and complete creative projects as part of this course.

Course Name: Physics

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology and Chemistry, Taken concurrently with Algebra II or Above.

Course Description: This course offers the subject matter of a traditional physics course with a qualitative approach to problem-solving. There will still be a mathematical component to the class to fully understand the concepts by applying equations associated with each concept. Prerequisite math skills should include, but is not limited to those presented in Algebra II. The format includes lecture/discussion, group collaboration, self-research, problem solving and experimentation. There are laboratories and projects which demonstrate students' mastery of course materials. General areas of study will include mechanics, motion, astronomy, heat, light, sound, magnetism and electricity with an option to explore other areas of physics.

Course Name: Physics Honors

Prerequisites: Completion of Biology and Chemistry, Completion of Algebra II. Taken concurrently with Pre-Calculus or Calculus.

Course Description: A college preparatory course emphasizing mechanics, heat, sound, and electromagnetism. Recommended for the student specializing in science and engineering. Students will learn the basic motions of the universe and the equations that describe them. On top of understanding and analyzing concepts of a physical phenomenon an emphasis is placed on a mathematical understanding of the physics principles that are presented. Topics include Newtonian physics, thermal physics and fluid dynamics, waves and optics, electricity and magnetism, and atomic and nuclear physics. Successful problem-solving in the course presumes experience in geometrical constructs and some trigonometric functions. Coursework involves laboratory activities, in-class assignments that heavily rely on collaboration and group work and formal assessments that require students to demonstrate problem-solving skills in the context of a science scenario.

Course Name: Environmental Science

Course Description: This course is for students that possess a strong interest in scientific concepts. Each semester will revolve around a different concept; the first half will focus on environmental sciences while the second half will focus on basic concepts of physics in the world around us. This class will feature some assessments, but will be largely project based. Therefore, students must be adept at working with small groups in order to accomplish tasks.

Course Name: AP Environmental Science (2019, 2021,...)

(Alternates every year with AP Biology)

Prerequisites: An 88 or higher in your Biology, Chemistry, and History, Advanced on the Biology and English Literature Keystone, and a recommendation by a Science teacher.

Course Description: This Advanced Placement course is designed for students who have a strong interest in both science and society. It will feature a rigorous course-load that will explore topics such as Ecology, Pollution, Population, and Politics through text readings, scientific journals, lecture, and media presentations. Students in AP Environmental Science will prepare to take the AP Exam through practice questions and essay writing. The goal is for students to reach a score of 4 or 5 so that they receive college credit for their efforts in the course. Labs, simulations, research assignments, will all be part of the coursework.

Course Name: AP Biology (2018, 2020...)

(Alternates every year with AP Environmental Science)

Prerequisites: Passed Biology Keystone; An 85 or higher in your Biology and Chemistry, preferably Chemistry Honors, and a written recommendation by a Science teacher and a signed agreement between the AP Biology Teacher and the student.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who are intending to major in a scientific field at the collegiate level. The AP Biology course merges rigor with creativity and offers students numerous opportunities for learning through scientific investigation, development of laboratory skills, and assessment. Rather than simply being presented with information, students will use formative assessments to guide their instruction as they work towards instilling a sense of ownership in what they learn. AP Biology requires increased student independence, a high degree of responsibility, approximately ½ - 1 hours of homework nightly, possess the ability to seek help outside of class in order to keep pace, and be available to continue some labs before school or at designated times.

History

Course Name: Social Studies 5

Course Description: Social Studies 5 is a study of United States history, beginning with the earliest American civilization, continuing to the development of the American colonies, and finishing with modern-day America. Students will begin the course by using maps to learn geography skills. Initial topics include early American civilization, Native American tribes, European exploration, and the colonization of North America. The focus then moves to the Revolutionary War; principles and documents of government; growth and westward expansion; government; patriotism; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This course also teaches the concepts of basic economics.

Course Name: Social Studies 6

Course Description: Social Studies 6 focuses on the Western Hemisphere, specifically all of Latin America and Canada. We cover the geographical features of each area, history, government, economy, and culture, starting with Canada and finishing with Latin America. The connections between geography and history are explored and evaluated. Students will build map skills to better understand the world, and refine their reading, writing, and geography skills.

Course Name: Social Studies 7

Course Description: Social Studies 7 explores the impacts of civilizations gaining, consolidating and losing power in an increasingly interconnected world. Starting from the days of nomadic tribes roaming the earth in 10,000 BCE, this course will explore the early river civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Shang, and the Indus River Valley. It will then move onto the classical civilizations of India, Greece, Rome, and China. Throughout all of these units, the requisite geographical information related to these civilizations will also be explored

Course Name: Social Studies 8

Course Description: Social Studies 8 teaches students about American history and society, from the first human migrations to the Americas to the European colonization of the Americas and the founding of the United States, through the end of the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. Students will explore the causes and effects of the French and Indian War, and will study the First Continental Congress, Declaration of Independence, and challenges of governing a new nation. The course will move through the growth of the United States, including its political landscape in the early 1800s, and slavery and territorial expansion.

Course Name: World History

Course Description: World History I explores the impact of new ideas, inequity, and power consolidation in an increasingly interconnected and technologically advanced world. Starting with the Renaissance, this course will explore how the Enlightenment led to revolutions around the world. This course will then explore the rise of nationalism, the causes and effects of the industrial revolution, the spread of global imperialism, and World Wars I and II. Throughout this course students will practice the historical thinking skills of sourcing, comparing change and continuity, recognizing cause and effect, understanding multiple points of view, and contextualization.

Course Name: African-American History

Course Description: The African American History course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the African American experience beginning with Africa through modern times. Beginning with a historical, political, and cultural understanding of the African continent, the course will provide a descriptive and corrective overview which will introduce the student to the study of the African American experiences. In addition, students will study the social, cultural and political contributions of African Americans to American society.

Course Name: US History

Prerequisite: World History

Course Description: US History is a survey of American political, economic, and cultural trends from 1850 to the present. Emphasis is given to major historical trends such as: industrialization, progressive political movements, growth of economic influence, social and cultural development, and America's role in a global setting. The course strives to help students develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of challenges faced by the U.S. in both foreign and domestic policies. Students also develop research and writing skills through periodic research projects.

Course Name: AP US History

Prerequisites: Admission will be based on grades in both History and English classes, and teacher recommendation.

Course Description: Advanced Placement U.S. History course is designed at the college level to provide the student with analytical skills, factual knowledge and writing abilities necessary to understand and deal critically with the political, economic, and cultural events and problems in United States history.

This is a challenging program that is meant to be the equivalent to a freshman college course and will also be accepted as the required junior-level U.S. History class. All the students in this class are expected to take the AP U.S. History test in May, with a goal to earn a grade of 3 or above.

Course Name: Social Science

Prerequisite: US History

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of American government, the American political process and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will develop an understanding of how the United States government embodies the principles and ideals of a democratic republic by examining the foundational documents on which it is based. Areas of study include, but are not limited to, principles of U.S. government, role, structure, and forms of government, branches of U.S. government, political parties, historic and current public policy issues, and provisions of the U.S. Constitution, amendments and Bill of Rights. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote.

Students also are introduced to ways of participating in civic life both individually and collectively. Students will be required to design and implement a Service Learning project that brings these ideals and principles to life. Through this project, students will begin to confront the question: "How can I, working with a small group of likeminded people, bring about meaningful change in my community?"

Foreign Language

Course Name: Spanish 1

Course Description: This first year Spanish provides students the opportunity to learn to speak, listen, read and write in the target language. Students will develop the language skills needed to have a basic conversation in Spanish and to be successful in further studies of language. In addition to learning the fundamentals of the language, students learn about Spanish-speaking communities and cultures.

Course Name: Spanish 2

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Course Description: The second year Spanish continues to provide students the opportunity to increase their ability to speak, listen, read and write in the target language. Students will further develop the language skills needed to tell a story in Spanish and to be successful in further studies of language. In addition to learning the fundamentals of the language, students learn about Spanish-speaking communities and cultures.

Course Name: Spanish 3 Honors

Prerequisite: An 85 or higher in Spanish 2 and teacher recommendation

Course Description: This course reviews, reinforces, and expands grammar and communication skills acquired in Spanish 1 and 2. Through reading and discussion of literature, history, customs, and geography, students enhance their understanding of the cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples. The student's advanced level of reading, writing and oral communication is demonstrated through oral presentations, comprehension of literary selections, and research of various aspects of culture. All class work and communication are in Spanish.

Music

Course Name: Choir (grades 5 through 12)

Course Description: All GAMP students participate in two choir periods per week, and are required to perform in our two Winter Concerts and Spring Concert. Students learn 3 and 4 part music, ensemble and performance skills, and are exposed to a wide variety of choral literature. Students are grouped according to grade level and voice part.

Course Name: Concert Choir

Prerequisites: High School Students (9th -12th), must audition for this select group and be selected

Course Description: They sing high level choral repertoire and perform in various venues in the Philadelphia area. Concert Choir meets for two periods per week. Concert Choir members participate in the All City Choir and perform each year in the All City Festival at the Kimmel Center.

Course Name: Music Theory (grades 5 through 10)

Course Description: Students build understanding and music performance skills by studying the fundamentals of music reading, ear training, music history, and work on basic skills in the Piano Lab. As they advance each year, Music Theory focuses on reading and analysis of music with real-world application, as well as on developing sight-singing and ear training abilities. Topics covered include using all scales and key signatures, understanding chord structures, and identifying musical forms. Students are expected to be able to sing and perform independently, and complete various tasks in musical analysis. Based upon a spiral curriculum and the AP Music Theory Text, students achieve mastery level music theory skills. All students, grades 5 through 10 receive music theory instruction 3 periods per week. Students may select AP Music Theory for 11th and/or 12th grade with approval of the instructor.

Course Name: AP Music Theory

Prerequisites: 11th or 12 Grade Student, an 85 or higher in previous teacher class, and/or a recommendation from the AP Music Teacher

Course Description: The AP Music Theory course corresponds to two semesters of a typical introductory college music theory course (written and aural) that covers topics such as musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. Musicianship skills including dictation and other listening skills, sight-singing, and keyboard harmony are considered an important part of the course. Through the course, students develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective. Performance is also part of the learning process. Students understand basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed, and fluency with basic materials are emphasized.

Course Name: Music Technology Middle School:

Course Description: Students have the opportunity to explore the history of music technology and learn skills related to Microphones and Sound Systems; Physic of Sound, Sound and Video Special Effects and more.

Course Name: Music Technology HS (Elective):

Prerequisites: Current 9th-12th Grade Student

Course Description: High school students have the opportunity to explore the history of music technology and learn skills related to Microphones and Sound Systems; Physic of Sound, Sound and Video Special Effects and more. The culminating outcome is a music video that demonstrates student's proficiency with various multimedia software.

Course Name: Piano (Elective):

Course Description: This *performance-based* course is open to any student (beginners through experienced) who desires to learn to play the piano. Basic music theory concepts of scales and chords will be applied as students strengthen their piano technique and sheet music reading skills through playing traditional method book and classical pieces. Students will also learn to interpret and perform various genres/styles of music including blues, jazz, R&B, gospel, pop, and rock. While not a requirement, it is recommended that students have access to a piano or keyboard outside of school for continued practicing. Students enrolled in piano class must have the ability to work independently for lengthy periods of time, and are required to bring headphones (with a 3.5mm jack) to every class.

Course Name: World Music (Elective):

Course Description: Music in World Cultures: This course explores music from an ethnomusicological perspective. Focusing entirely on non-western music (African, Asian, Latin American, Hip-hop, Rhythm and Blues, ect), students will explore the complex inter-relationship of music to the cultures, societies, politics, and daily life from which they arose.

Course Name: Music History (Elective):

Course Description: This elective course offers an overview of music around the world and throughout history. Topics covered are: World Music (music of other cultures around the world), Western Music History (music of the classical composers), Jazz (roots of jazz music in America), and American Popular Music. This course requires active participation and every unit will include a performance project requiring students to actively participate in making or creating music.

Course Name: Theater (Elective):

Students will get a comprehensive approach to the basics of theater studies. They will develop creativity and confidence, learn to work cooperatively, develop acting skills, learn to move effectively in a theater setting. Students will learn a variety of acting exercises, and work on monologues, duologues, group scene work. Those who desire will also be given an opportunity to direct scenes.

Course Name: Guitar (Elective):

Prerequisites: Open to both intermediate and beginning players. Must be able to work independently and as part of a group. Students must purchase the Mel Bay "Guitar Method Book 1" for beginners, and book 2 for intermediate guitar. Other materials will be provided.

Course Description: Beginners will learn basic posture and technique and how to tune and maintain a guitar. Note reading will be emphasized instead of tablature. Beginning students will learn basic chords and scales in order to play along with simple pop and rock songs. Students will be able to read and play well-known simple folk tunes. Students will also compose chord progressions for songs they will write. Intermediate players will learn more scale forms in order to take a solo over a progression. They will learn advanced chord progressions from pop, jazz and rock tunes using lead sheets, and will learn to write more complex chord progressions for their own original songs. Students will learn about song form for composition and how to be a member of a jazz, rock, or pop band. All students will participate in informal performances. Bring your guitar and be prepared to sing!

Course Name: Musical Theater Production (grades 5 through 12)

Prerequisites: Must audition and be selected

Course Description: - Students are selected by audition process in December. Rehearsals are mostly after school, from January to end of April. GAMP Musicals are an example of the exceptional level of achievement which permeates the academic and musical atmosphere at this most excellent school.