

High School Course Description: Music

In high school music education, students focus on music appreciation, music theory, music history, as well as practical skills such as performance and composition.

GISB's rigorous two-year high school music curriculum addresses the topics listed below in depth.

Grade 9

Students in grade 9 learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic processes of music, developing skills about the most important genres and music theory. They focus on analyzing a diverse selection of musical works and genres, with a special emphasis on Musorgsky's *Pictures of an Exhibition*.

Using Noteflight software, students closely examine the foundation of harmony and composition, improving their skills. They focus on identifying pitch, interval, scales and keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts through performed and notated music. Developing an understanding of rhythm and pitch enhances the students' ability to improvise and create unique compositions. Through active engagement in our class ensemble and choir, students develop skills of listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music. Students continue to explore our music production equipment and collaborate by using Pro Tools. They will work on recording their own music creating different tracks.

Students apply their skills by composing a song. Students create music portfolios based on Mussorgsky's *Pictures of an Exhibition*, analyzing the various movements and researching the background of the composer and his work. Focusing on the most important genres, they create visuals or slides uploading music while learning to identify various styles of music through listening, developing and understanding the intricacy and thought put into composition.

Students learn about:

- Notes and rests
- Major scales
- Major keys
- Tempo
- Dynamics



Students build on their understanding of triads, scales and seventh chords and begin to learn about the fundamentals of harmony.

The following skills are covered:

- Diatonic chords
- Chord inversions
- The qualities of 7th chords

Grade 10

Students will be exposed to music theory in connection with music history and through their own as well as others' presentations to widen their music appreciation. By listening, viewing, analyzing, describing, and interpreting musical works, for example through the Raga, they will focus on modes of tonality. Bach's Fugue aims to expose high school students to a study of counterpoint. Students deepen their understanding of the music inherent in Ancient Cultures to Modern Music. Listening to the music of different eras, students learn to appreciate the intricacy and thought put into a composition, providing an entirely new layer of musical understanding through the evolutions of genres.

Through performed and recorded music, students develop an understanding of pitch, interval, scales and keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts. Students engage in active music production in our studio, utilizing a music platform called Pro Tools. Using Noteflight software, students closely examine the foundation of harmony and composition and can improve their skills. Through active engagement in our class ensemble and choir, students develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music.

Students learn about:

- Pitch and pitch notation
- Notes and rests
- Major scales
- Major keys
- Tempo
- Dynamics

Through an extensive focus on music history, students are exposed to how music theory developed over time, the complexity of a Raga, experiencing the fundamentals of Western music, Bach's counterpoint, exploring harmony, chord function, and cadence.

The following skills are covered:

- Soprano-bass counterpoint
- Four-part (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass) voice leading



- Harmonic progression, functional harmony, and cadences
- Voice leading with 7th chords

Types of Large Assessments in this Course:

Oral presentations, class tests, class participation, homework