

2019-2020
Bangor Area High School Bands

Elective Courses

Guitar ~ 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the basic musical notation and performance techniques associated with playing the guitar. The skills necessary to perform on the guitar are applied, rehearsed, and assessed in order to assist students in achieving success as musicians. Single note melodies as well as strummed chord accompaniments are studied. Additionally, students complete several projects throughout the course. The projects may include: a presentation on a specific popular guitar artist, a research paper on the history of the guitar, a report on how to purchase a guitar, and a test on how to restring a guitar.

Instrumental Instruction ~ 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades:

The purpose of this course is to provide current and prospective band members individual and small group instruction on their primary and/or secondary wind or percussion instruments. This course is not designed to teach guitar, piano, or vocal skills. Emphasis is placed on the higher-level performance techniques associated with each instrument. Students are assessed via weekly individual lessons and periodic performances. Students who wish to audition for PMEA District 10 Band, perform in the Bangor Area High School Jazz Band or Pit Orchestra, or audition to major in music in college should enroll in this course.

Music Theory I ~ 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to basic musical notation and elementary level music theory concepts. The course begins with major and minor scales and key signatures, modes, intervals, chords, and sequences before progressing to harmonization of original melodies in four parts. Sight singing, melodic dictation, and rhythmic dictation are incorporated in order to increase each student's ability to compose away from the keyboard. Students are required to write an original composition with all the concepts and techniques discussed. Band and Choir members are strongly encouraged to enroll in this course, as the concepts discussed will augment the performance techniques associated with the ensembles.

Music Theory II ~ 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades

The purpose of this course is to augment the concepts introduced in Music Theory I. Techniques such as transposition, orchestration, and arranging are explored in depth. Original compositions are stressed. Altered and advanced chords, modulation, and larger forms are discussed and utilized. Modern harmonic techniques, including twelve-tone and serial techniques, are discussed. This is a highly individualized course. Students should be prepared to spend numerous hours outside of class on their projects.
(*Prerequisite: Minimum of 80% in Music Theory I)

Curricular Ensembles

Symphonic Band ~ 11th and 12th Grades:

Members of this ensemble explore the aspects of instrumental music performance associated with embouchure, articulation, intonation, rhythm, tone, balance, blend, and technique through the performance of quality band repertoire composed by respected composers and arrangers. This ensemble works to achieve the highest standards of musical excellence. Members are encouraged to participate in the Bangor Area High School Marching Band. With the exception of scheduling issues, 11th and 12th grade Marching Band members are required to enroll in this course. The Symphonic Band performs four public concerts each year. Scheduled performances are mandatory and included as part of the grade. Members of this ensemble are expected to attend an annual adjudication trip.

Concert Band ~ 9th and 10th Grades:

Members of this ensemble explore the aspects of instrumental music performance associated with embouchure, articulation, intonation, rhythm, tone, balance, blend, and technique through the performance of quality band repertoire composed by respected composers and arrangers. This ensemble works to achieve the highest standards of musical excellence. Members are encouraged to participate in the Bangor Area High School Marching Band. With the exception of scheduling issues, 9th and 10th grade Marching Band members are required to enroll in this course. The Concert Band performs four public concerts each year. Scheduled performances are mandatory and included as part of the grade. Members of this ensemble are expected to attend an annual adjudication trip.

Jazz Band ~ 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades:

Members of this ensemble explore the aspects of jazz performance associated with embouchure, articulation, intonation, rhythm, tone, balance, blend, technique, and improvisation through the performance of quality jazz repertoire composed by respected composers and arrangers. This ensemble works to achieve the highest standards of musical excellence. The Jazz Band performs one public concert at the end of the year. Additional performances at local venues, as well as jazz festivals hosted by nearby high schools, are typical for this ensemble. Scheduled performances are mandatory and included as part of the grade. Members of this ensemble are expected to attend an annual adjudication trip.

Extra-Curricular Ensembles (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th Grades)

Marching Band

The Marching Band is a musical ensemble comprised of woodwind, brass, percussion, color guard, and honor guard members, which is organized each spring for the duration of the following school year. For over forty years the Marching Band has paid tribute to the Welsh heritage of Bangor, PA, a slate mining town settled in 1760 by immigrants from the slate mining village of Bangor, Wales. The uniforms, marching style, and

musical traditions of the Marching Band are patterned after Her Majesty's Royal Welsh Guard, a regiment of the British Army, founded in 1915. The Marching Band has performed for the National Gymanfa Ganu twice in Harrisburg, PA and once in Ottawa, Canada, as well as for the North American Festival of Wales in Pittsburgh, PA. In 2007, the Marching Band visited Bangor, Wales during its "Tribute To Heroes" Tour across Wales, England, and Ireland, which included performances at numerous cultural and historical landmarks. The Marching Band has performed in the National Bicentennial Parade in Philadelphia, PA; the Niagara Falls Blossom Festival in Niagara Falls, Canada; three Miss America Parades in Atlantic City, NJ; four Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom Parades in Orlando, FL; twenty-one Celtic Classic Festival "Showing of the Tartan" Parades in Bethlehem, PA; two Philadelphia Phillies Pregames in Philadelphia, PA; the Hershey Centennial Grande Feature Parade in Hershey, PA; two Gator Bowls in Jacksonville, FL; the Walt Disney World Magic Kingdom SpectroMagic Parade in Orlando, FL; the West Virginia Strawberry Festival in Buckhannon, WV; six New York City Veterans Day Parades in New York, NY; two King Frost Parades in Hamburg, PA; and two Scranton St. Patrick's Parades in Scranton, PA. The Marching Band was also the first band to perform at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, PA. The Marching Band has participated in Music In The Parks adjudications at Dorney Park in Allentown, PA and Hersheypark in Hershey, PA. The Marching Band has also participated in Festivals of Music adjudications in Montreal, Canada; Ocean City, MD; three in Virginia Beach, VA; Orlando, FL; two in Williamsburg, VA; Washington, DC; and Boston, MA. Annually, the Marching Band hosts a festival at Bangor's Memorial Park. The Marching Band also performs at football games, competitions, parades, school functions, community events, and music department concerts.

Pep Band

The Pep Band is a musical ensemble comprised of woodwinds, brass, and percussion, which is organized each winter to perform at home varsity boys and girls basketball games. Members of the Bangor Area High School Marching Band typically populate this organization, but non-Marching Band students may join the Pep Band as well.

Pit Orchestra

The Pit Orchestra is a musical ensemble composed of woodwind, brass, percussion, keyboard, and string instruments, which is organized each year to accompany the cast of the spring musical. Over the past 13 years, the Pit Orchestra has been nominated for 11 Freddy Awards. The director selects students for this ensemble.