
Music

Music Theory and History

MUSIC COMPOSITION AND THEORY I: FUNDAMENTALS

fall term

Have you ever wondered how music works? How do pitch and rhythm make a melody catchy? What makes one chord sound more emotional than another chord? Beginning with the basic elements of music theory — note reading, scales and modes, key and time signatures, intervals and chords, and basic melody writing — this course works to build the musical skills necessary to read, write, and understand melodies, chord progressions and bass lines, seventh chords in inversion, and reading music over four clefs (chorale or quartet style). Students also will begin harmonic analysis skills. In addition, this course introduces non-western approaches to harmonization and musical organization. The course emphasizes ear training, interval and chord recognition, beginning sight-singing, and melodic dictation. Students will utilize various music theory websites and will explore basic compositional techniques using electronic music notation software. By term's end, students should possess the skills needed to place out of beginning music theory at the college level. No previous theory, vocal, or keyboard skill is required.

CL MUSIC COMPOSITION AND THEORY II: HARMONY AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS

winter term

This course focuses on the direct application of concepts such as chord progressions, part-writing, figured bass, borrowed chords, modulation, and elements of musical form to both students' compositions and the analysis of existing musical works. Students will utilize music notation software to create their own works for solo instruments and piano as well as part-writing in four parts. In addition, classes are formatted with harmonic analysis, ear-training, keyboard instruction, sight singing and multiple clef reading. Students will engage in further discussion of non-western approaches to composition and harmonic form. Local and alumni composers are featured as guest instructors and clinicians. Students wishing to take the AP exam should plan on both CL Music Theory II and III. Prerequisite: CL Music Theory I or permission of the department

recommendations, the department strongly encourages performances on regularly scheduled Recital Samplers, participation in solo or shared recitals during the junior and senior years, and preparation of a recording for inclusion in the college application process. A music independent study or project may be considered for students who have exhausted the curricular offerings and/or preparing for college auditions.

- To be competitive for admission to acting schools and/or to establish a strong theater resume for liberal arts college applications, a serious student should audition for at least one major and one minor production each year as well as take at least one theater course each year. Students concentrating in technical theater, costuming, lighting, set design, scenic art, and stage management may plan to engage in curricular and production offerings each year. Help planning a theater curriculum can be obtained from the faculty early in the student's career.
- Students planning to further advance studies and experiences in dance at the college level should plan to audition for Dance Company and may consider classes in choreography and in genres in addition to their concentration or previous experience. There are several performing venues throughout the school year, including major productions Fall Dance Showcase and the Spring Dance Revue, for students to showcase their skills and technique. Planning a course of study with the dance director is encouraged.

The school's arts requirement of three courses for entering freshmen or two courses for all others may be satisfied by any combination of visual arts, daytime dance, theater, or music courses.

Students enrolled in mainstage productions, Stage II, and the Chamber Music Intensive can satisfy team and afternoon activities requirements. See information on Athletics and After-School Program requirements for further information.



CL MUSIC COMPOSITION AND THEORY III: FORM AND ADVANCED COMPOSITION

spring term

This course is designed for students with advanced music skills and a strong interest in long-form instrumental and vocal music. Students will apply deep harmonic and form analysis of existing musical works to their own compositions. Topics include borrowed sixth chords, seventh and ninth chords, counterpoint, modulations, and part writing. Students are introduced to classic sonata form and 20th-century and contemporary western and non-western composition and harmony. Significant time is allotted to developing keen ear training and aural recognition skills. At the completion of the course, students may elect to take the AP Music Theory exam. Those students interested in sitting for the AP Music Theory exam in May will need to complete some independent work to prepare for that exam and should consult with the instructor to identify those additional topics. Prerequisite: CL Music Theory II or permission of the department

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND COMPOSITION I

half course

Students enrolled in this course will learn to compose electronic music within Logic Pro, a professional digital audio workstation and music performance software. This project-based course is designed to develop musicianship and exercise an understanding of music characteristics such as rhythm, harmony, form, and timbre. Throughout the course, students will learn to produce electronic music based on the songs they listen to and enjoy. Projects will build a music production skillset that includes audio recording and editing, MIDI control, sample-based production, synthesis, and mixing. Students will learn to listen to and critically evaluate compositions, and they will learn to work in a collaborative, creative environment. *Note: This class may not be repeated for credit; a second level of this class is offered.*

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND COMPOSITION II

half course/not offered in 2025-26

This course focuses on building a portfolio of originally composed and mastered works (at least 2 per term) and learning effective avenues and platforms for online distribution.

Each work, regardless of genre or form, will be mixed according to professional standards and will employ some basic mastering techniques. In addition, MT+C2 will expand upon MT+C1 topics and introduce new material including basic mastering techniques, music industry and distribution, advanced features such as signal routing and effect chains, and developing a custom effect plugin. Prerequisite: Music Technology and Composition I or permission of instructor

MUSIC AND SOCIAL ACTION WORLDWIDE GESC

half course

Students enrolled in this course will take a wide look at both the response of musicians to current political events and social movements of the recent past and the varying courses of action musicians have taken to create and galvanize change. In addition, students will consider the question: Do efforts such as music fundraisers and collaborative politically/socially themed concerts actually affect change? Upon analyzing the impact of musicians and their music on disaster relief and political and social oppression, students will discuss the factors needed to determine value and success of such efforts. Class time will be devoted to work in conjunction with the Norton Family Center for Common Good and the Pearse Hub for Innovation to design projects to bring Music and Social Action topics, questions, and queries to the greater Loomis Chaffee community. In addition, students will meet with guest speakers and performers to better understand the role and process of creating or presenting music for social action. (Sample course topics: Lin Manuel Miranda's work for Puerto Rico, El Sistema, revolutionary folk music in Chile, the music of Sixto Rodriguez, the choral revolution in Estonia, Band Aid, and the musical *Hamilton*.)

MUSIC HISTORY FROM RHAPSODY TO RAP

spring term

This sojourn through the history of music searches historical roots and development of both classic and popular music. With an emphasis on developing critical and discriminative listening skills, students will seek answers to questions such as: How do rap and New Age music relate to Gregorian chant? How are Smetana and Santana related? How did the song cycle influence the modern-day concept album? From Bach and Beethoven to the Beatles and

Beyoncé, students will investigate political and social events that influenced musical forms, the development of musical instruments, and the ever-changing tools of music composition. Through listening sessions, student choice presentations, guest artist performances, discussions, videos, and website research, we will attempt to answer these questions and more.

THE HISTORY OF BROADWAY MUSICALS

half course/not offered in 2025-26

This course surveys the musical shows, composers, and performing artists of Broadway's past, present, and future. Students will study the influences of burlesque, vaudeville, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Tin Pan Alley on the 20th and 21st century Broadway musical. Beginning with the development of early show writing teams and composers such as Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Rodgers and Hart, and Leonard Bernstein study will continue with Stephen Sondheim, Stephen Schwartz, and the contemporary teams that created shows such as *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, rock musicals such as *Tommy* and *Hair*, and the rock musicals of today such as *Next to Normal* and *Waitress*. Finally, the class will survey the work of composers such as Jason Robert Brown and Anaïs Mitchell. In addition to viewing and listening sessions and discussions, the class will plan to attend outside and on campus performances, receive visits from local music theater artists, and tour a Connecticut theater.



Music Ensemble Performance Courses

The following courses provide students with the opportunity to earn arts credit through performance in musical groups. All of these performance courses provide a repertoire of diverse styles and periods. Enrolled students must practice regularly, attend all scheduled rehearsals, and take part in all performances (participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of each course).

Performance classes are open to students in all classes; ensemble performance and applied music classes may be repeated for credit. *For instrumental classes, the student must indicate the instrument to be played in the "Notes" section of the course registration form.* Students enrolled in performance classes must attend three Music Department-sponsored concerts of their choice each term to earn concert credits.

CONCERT CHOIR **GESC**

half course

Open to all who enjoy singing, this course teaches basic techniques of healthy singing through the preparation and performance of a large variety of choral music. Through repertoire ranging from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical to American musical theater, pop, and jazz, and especially including a large range of diverse cultural and global vocal pieces, the ensemble works to create a meaningful musical choral ensemble experience while internalizing the characteristics unique to each style. The Concert Choir performs in at least two major concerts each year and may join with the Orchestra or Wind Ensemble in the preparation of larger works. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

CHAMBER SINGERS **GESC**

half course/sophomores, juniors, seniors

Designed for those students with advanced vocal musicianship and keen interest in choral music, this course challenges the vocalist to work toward a high level of vocal proficiency in a choral setting; particular emphasis is made on sight reading and tone production. Repertoire includes classical and contemporary musical compositions for the smaller ensemble and

specializes in multicultural and global music new to the choral genre. The Chamber Singers perform frequently during the school year and are highlighted in at least two major choral concerts in the winter and spring. An audition is required for enrollment. Students electing this course must also elect Concert Choir. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

WIND ENSEMBLE

half course

Students in the Wind Ensemble (Concert Band) study and perform a stylistically wide variety of inspiring literature composed for the wind ensemble/concert band medium, as well as outstanding transcriptions from other musical sources. Intellectually, artistically, and emotionally challenging, this literature provides the foundation for daily music learning and enjoyment. All students who play woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments are welcome. Students with less than two years playing experience will be asked to audition for placement. This course focuses on each individual student's enjoyment of the musical experience and promotes individual and ensemble musical skill development. The Wind Ensemble performs in at least two major on-campus concerts each year. Occasional off-campus performances and/or field trips may be part of the experience. Advanced students may be selected to play in symphonic works with the Orchestra. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

JAZZ BAND

half course

Open to all wind, percussion, guitar, bass, and keyboard players, the Jazz Band explores both classic and modern jazz. Emphasis is on jazz technique, jazz repertoire, and improvisation. Students who are new to jazz may take this class. A background on your instrument that includes private instruction or previous experience in a school band or jazz band is expected. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

JAZZ IMPROVISATION AND THEORY

half course

Through the study of jazz scales, melody, harmony, form, and rhythm, students in this class learn jazz improvisation and theory. Students explore progressively more difficult

solo complexities, from simple modes and blues to complex be-bop and post-be-bop styles. Prerequisite: In a fall listening session audition, students enrolled in this class must demonstrate sufficient familiarity with jazz style and technique and an ability to improvise at an advanced level. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

ORCHESTRA **GESC**

half course

The Orchestra is comprised of violins, violas, cellos, and double basses and is designed to expose players to a variety of music. Repertoire is chosen from genres from the Baroque to Contemporary eras and may feature solo student musicians. Wind, brass, and percussion students from the Wind Ensemble may join the strings in larger orchestral works. On occasion, the ensemble collaborates with the Concert Choir and faculty singers. The Orchestra performs in at least two major concerts each year. Seating auditions for strings are held in the fall term. A background on your instrument that includes private instruction or previous orchestra experience is expected. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

CHAMBER MUSIC

half course

Open to pianists, bowed strings players, classical guitarists, wind and brass players, this course forms duos, trios, quartets, etc. The course provides advanced level instrumentalists with opportunities to study and perform repertoire written specifically for chamber music ensembles. Repertoire is selected from works of major composers and all genres, and groups are formed based on playing ability and level. This class concentrates on the preparation of several scheduled ensemble concerts, in-class performances, and on-campus events. All students electing this course must audition in the fall for appropriate group placement; some students may be advised to further their technical skills another year before admission to the course. This class meets in the same time block as Wind Ensemble and Orchestra and may be taken concurrently with those ensemble classes. Participation in end-of-term class recitals is a requirement of the class.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

half course as a section of Chamber Music/not offered in 2025-26

This course is designed for the experienced percussion student who seeks to enhance percussion study and performance with an ensemble experience. Utilizing literature written specifically for percussion ensembles and percussion chamber music, students in this ensemble will play instruments such as marimba, xylophone, timpani, timbales, and concert instruments such as bells, gong, snare, and toms. This ensemble will perform on recital samplers and at campus events throughout the school year. (Students enrolled in this class must be able to read and play written rhythms in time and with a steady beat; some students may be advised to further their technical skills before admission to the course.) A placement session will take place with the instructor at the start of the school year. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class.

GUITAR ENSEMBLE

half course

This course is designed for the experienced guitar student who seeks to enhance guitar study and performance with an ensemble experience. Students will rehearse repertoire from several genres including classic, jazz, rock, and blues. In addition, ensemble members will work on improvisation and solo technique. This ensemble will perform on recital samplers and at campus events throughout the school year. Students enrolled in this class should be able to read music in first position and play written rhythms in time and with a steady beat; some students may be advised to further their technical skills before admission to the course. A placement session will take place with the instructor at the start of the school year. Participation in major ensemble concerts is a requirement of the class. *Note: Electric guitar is preferable for this ensemble, students may arrange a rental of an electric guitar with a local music store or studio.*

Applied Music

MUSICIANSHIP IN THE MAKING

half course

Designed for both music enthusiasts and those just rather curious about music who have had little or no formal background or training in

music, this course will provide students with an introduction to theoretical and practical aspects of music such as: music notation, hearing and identifying harmony, internalizing meter and rhythm, and listening skills needed to truly understand music genre, form, and style. Drawing from a vast array of music sources and traditions (globally and locally) especially of interest to the class members, students will complete this class confident in skills needed to give lifelong meaning to music and ready to continue a sojourn into music history or music theory. Class activities and resources include hands-on introductory work with classroom instruments, beginning composition on a variety of tools, concert attendance and listening sessions, music-related films and biographies, and class visits by local professional musicians and music production experts.

BEGINNING PIANO

half course

This studio course teaches basic piano technique to the beginning pianist. Working with headphones on electronic keyboards, class members work through a level-appropriate piano repertoire and tasks; the instructor works with each student during each class meeting. During some classes, individuals play music for the rest of the class. The practicing and homework may be done on acoustic pianos or electronic keyboards. This course is appropriate for beginners with no experience, players who have studied another instrument but desire piano experience, and students of music theory. Students are expected to regularly and consistently practice repertoire and skills on their own. *Note: This group-lesson class includes no additional charge to the student; it may not be repeated for credit.*

BEGINNING ACOUSTIC GUITAR

half course

This course introduces the student new to guitar to basic first-position chords, strum patterns, and both pick-style and finger-style playing. Students will learn to read standard musical notation, chord charts, and tablature. In addition, students will learn to tune the guitar. Individually and as an ensemble, students will play contemporary and classic repertoire, and skill-building scales and exercises. Students are expected to regularly and consistently practice repertoire and skills on their own. *Note: This group-lesson class includes no additional charge to the student; it may not be repeated for credit.*

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

half course

This course, which can be taken for credit or no credit, allows a student to study voice or a musical instrument. Students who attend twenty-six or more private music lessons over the course of three terms during the same academic year may earn credit; no fewer than eight lessons in a term and no more than ten per term may count toward credit. In addition, students must demonstrate significant technical and musical progress on the instruments studied; consistent attendance alone does not merit credit. Before lessons begin, parents must clearly express their permission by registering their student(s) through the parent portal. Students and parents must commit to a full trimester of lessons (see registration form for deadlines). Instrumental rentals may be arranged. *Note: The weekly lesson includes an additional fee.*

The music department currently arranges the following lessons:

- Voice
- Keyboard
- Bowed Strings
- Woodwind
- Brass
- Percussion
- Guitar
- Harp (students must provide harp)
- Saxophone
- Other

INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN MUSIC

term course

The student must arrange for a project advisor, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor, project advisor, department head, and the dean of faculty. Independent studies will be approved only for those students who have shown significant participation and growth through their LC music career and have exhausted the offerings of the music program.



Theater

ACTING I: INTRODUCTION TO ACTING

offered as a term course and half course

In an effort to enhance confidence in a non-judgmental atmosphere, Introduction to Acting engages its students with highly improvisational theater games and exercises. Over the course of the term or year, students work to discover greater on-stage comfort levels and to decrease stage fright. Typical exercises emphasize movement, speech, creativity, originality, and spontaneity, and prepare students for the more traditional acting theory offered in Fundamentals of Acting. The term course option may be taken as a sixth course.

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

half course

This course prepares the acting student with techniques and skills for performing on camera. Classes will provide opportunities for on-camera acting experience in scripted and improvised scene work, shot framing, and story boarding. Performers looking to learn in-depth about meeting the challenges involved in on-camera acting will appreciate and enjoy this course. The course also exposes students to hands-on experience in technical aspects of the behind-the-camera process in capturing the actor's on-screen performance. This course will help students unlock proven techniques of film making for building their own audition tapes, acting reels, short film, and web-series. Students will take turns acting in scenes and

working behind the camera. This course may be taken as a sixth course. Prerequisite: Acting I or permission of the department.

ACTING: IMPROVISATION

half course

Improvisation class will challenge the acting students to think on their feet while building strong communication and listening skills. Performance improvisation requires the actor to work moment-to-moment establishing settings, relationships, situations, and conclusions to both comedic and dramatic story telling. The class will also explore masks to improvise through physical story telling. The class will further challenge the acting student to rid themselves of theatrical self-censorship allowing them to make intelligent, informed, and exciting choices for the stage. This course may be taken as a sixth course. Prerequisite: Acting I or permission of the department

ACTING: STAGE COMBAT

half course

Stage Combat is the illusion of violence for stage or screen. This course is an introduction and exploration of technical and aesthetic aspects of stage combat. The goals are for the students to develop the ability to safely portray violence onstage within the context of a play with specificity and dramatic power as well as to understand how stage combat fits into the practice of theater as a whole. Understanding the techniques of safe and effective performance combat is a primary objective. The students will build a strong foundation of footwork, attacks, and defenses, and

explore movement and partnering techniques specifically for stage combat. Other aspects of the class include the development of strength, flexibility, hand/eye coordination, and the understanding and application of principles of safety in working with a partner and in ensemble. This course may be taken as a sixth course. Prerequisite: Acting I or permission of the department

ACTING II: FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTING

half course

This course emphasizes the philosophical basis and techniques necessary for acting in modern comedy and drama. Students improve their acting, improvisation, and audition skills by studying naturalistic, objective-based, moment-to-moment acting techniques. The class stresses audition pieces, monologues, and scene study from contemporary plays. Viewing of selected film scenes and visits to professional theaters in New York and Connecticut complement the course. This course may be taken as a sixth course. Prerequisite: Introduction to Acting or permission of the department

ACTING: SHAKESPEARE GESC

half course

This course is designed to make Shakespeare accessible to the performer by learning techniques for acting the text while experiencing the delights and challenges of these classic plays, which take place in a multitude of historical times and places. Shakespeare's works have been globally translated into more than 80 languages and have been performed throughout the world in over 70 nations. His plays (comedies, tragedies, and history plays) tell surprising but recognizable tales of human nature, relationships, conflict, love, war, and the human condition. Students will study and perform Shakespeare's plays in a variety of cultural contexts to discover and determine how context affects storytelling in our modern and globalized society. By studying and playing Shakespeare's characters through scene work and individual soliloquies the students will explore the sharing of common stories across cultures. While honing their performance skills the students will develop their communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills while holding a lens up to current world affairs through Shakespeare's words that offer insight, liberate, inform, and inspire. Prerequisite: Acting I or permission of the department.

MASKS IN CULTURE AND HISTORY GESC

half course/not offered in 2025–26

This theater performance course is designed to explore the cultural significance of masks in societies from around the globe. Students will investigate the role masks play in ritual, celebration, protection, and theater across disparate societies. Students will also discover and uncover the full dramatic potential of the body's movement and gesture when working in a mask. They will relinquish voice and concentrate fully on creating in the present. Mask work helps develop a heightened sense of discovery, awareness of space, a broadened comprehension of body language, and the cross-cultural awareness of the ability of gesture to communicate. While developing the expressive power of movement, stillness and the dramatic attitudes of the mask, students will explore different rhythms in nature: elements, animals, colors, and materials through simplified "honest" gesture and creativity. Students will each create a mask for storytelling to be developed over the course of the year.

TECHNICAL THEATER

half course

This course introduces the fundamentals of technical theater. Students gain experience in the construction of scenery and costumes, the hanging and focusing of lighting instruments, and the operation of computerized lighting and sound control equipment. In addition to participating in evening classes that present concepts and skills, students demonstrate their practical knowledge by crewing Theater & Dance productions. Experienced students apply their practical knowledge by serving as designers and stage managers for the student-run shows in the NEO Theater during the spring, and to the creation of their own original work. *Note: This class meets outside of the regularly scheduled school day in required meeting periods at least twice weekly.*

PLAYWRITING & DIRECTING

half course/juniors and seniors

For the first half of the year, students read professional ten-minute and full-length plays, and write several short plays. During the second half of the year, the students of this course learn the fundamentals of stage directing, stage management, and theatrical leadership on their way toward directing one play from each of the class's writers. The course culminates with the Norris Ely Orchard Theater's Students Original Playwriting & Directing Festival.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & ARGUMENTATION

half course

In an increasingly competitive world, the ability to express oneself and speak in public with clarity, persuasiveness, and even elegance is a critically important skill. Of related and equal importance is the ability to readily analyze, develop, and defend a sound and persuasive argument. This course is designed to develop students' confidence and competence to speak in public and argue persuasively and logically. Students hone their speaking skills using a variety of traditional speech events and exercises including oral interpretation of literature, the persuasive delivery of famous speeches, impromptu and extemporaneous speaking exercises, persuasive original speeches and "after dinner" speaking designed to entertain as well as to inform. The course also introduces traditional forms of debate: both extemporaneous and prepared.

INDEPENDENT STUDIES IN THEATER

term course

Loomis Chaffee Theater & Dance Department encourages the development of an Independent Study Project in theater. The student must arrange for a member of the theater faculty to be the project advisor, **submit a written proposal**, and obtain approval from the academic advisor and the dean of faculty. Independent studies will be approved only for those students who have shown significant participation and growth through their LC theater career and have exhausted the offerings of the theater program.

Dance

A variety of dance classes are offered, both during the day and after school. Some classes offer performance opportunities. Day-time dance half courses fulfill an arts credit. After-school dance classes fulfill the physical exertion requirement. All dance classes may be repeated for credit or for meeting physical education requirements.

ART OF DANCE

daytime/half course

This course introduces students to dance by engaging with the multiple purposes of the art form through hands-on experiences, by learning physical dance technique, & by exploring the history and current state of dance as a form of creative expression and social and cultural practice. Students will learn about ballet, modern, and jazz dance through technique classes, readings, discussions, videos, written responses, and collaborative projects. By examining dance in both global and local contexts, we will move toward a fuller appreciation and understanding of the influence of dance in our everyday lives as well as an embodied reflection



and expression of the world in which we live. This half-course is open to all students, with no previous dance experience necessary. There is no required performance aspect to this course. For those interested in performing in the fall and spring dance shows, this course should be taken in conjunction with the Dance Performance Ensemble half-course which meets in the same time block on alternating days.

DANCE PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE

daytime/half course

This course is for students with intermediate to advanced dance experience. Dance Performance Ensemble students will learn choreography for performance in the Fall Dance Showcase, MLK Day, and Spring Dance Revue. Students will also work collaboratively with the instructor and each other to research and explore the themes of each piece of choreography. Prerequisite: Art of Dance or permission of the instructor; Art of Dance may be taken concurrently.

Students who wish to audition for Dance Company (after school, fulfills the physical education requirement) are strongly encouraged to first enroll in Art of Dance and Dance Performance Ensemble (half courses).

MAKING DANCE: CHOREOGRAPHY AND COMPOSITION

daytime/half course

In this course students will explore and examine the history, theories, and methods of

discovering, creating, and crafting dance movement. By learning to manipulate the variables of space, time, energy, rhythm, form, style, and dynamics, students will learn to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through their own unique, creative, original work. Course work includes the study of the history of dance, the work of a variety of choreographers and their different styles, physical improvisation and movement creation, solo and/or group choreography, discussion, feedback, journaling, and research. Select students will have the opportunity to preview their works-in-progress in the Fall Dance Showcase and to present finished pieces in the annual Spring Dance Revue. *Note: This course welcomes a range of experience levels from novice to advanced dance practitioners as this is a composition rather than a technique class.*

BALLET/TAP TECHNIQUE

after-school team & physical exertion activity/fall term

This class focuses on classical ballet technique three days per week and tap dance technique one day per week. Instruction includes barre, center floor work, turns, jumps, and body conditioning to ensure the full development of the dancer. Advanced dancers who are already “en pointe” may, with the instructor’s approval, wear their pointe shoes for class. There is an optional performance opportunity in the Fall Dance Showcase for students in this class.

HIP-HOP DANCE

after-school team & physical exertion activity/winter term

This energetic and upbeat class studies various hip-hop and street-dance originated styles that are performed to popular music. The class explores hip-hop and funk dance as a means of expression and art. Instruction includes strengthening warm-up, technique exercises, and choreography combinations and emphasizes rhythm, self-expression, and developing personal style through freestyle improvisation and movement exploration. No previous experience is required; the class is open to students of all levels looking to build confidence and coordination through dynamic and fun routines. There is an optional performance opportunity in the Spring Dance Revue for students in this class. Hip-Hop Dance is taught by a visiting guest teacher.

JAZZ DANCE TECHNIQUE

after-school team & physical exertion activity/spring term

In this up-beat dance class, students are introduced to traditional American jazz dance, contemporary jazz, and jazz-fusion styles. Participants improve their strength, flexibility, coordination, and musicality through warm-ups, technique exercises, and dance choreography set to popular music of the past and present. There is an optional performance opportunity in the Spring Dance Revue for students in this class.

DANCE COMPANY

after-school team & physical exertion activity/yearlong

Dance Company is the elite dance performance group on campus and is for advanced dancers who wish to dedicate their after-school time and energy to dance, choreography, and performance. Students must audition in the fall to be considered for Dance Company. In addition to maintaining and improving various techniques, this course focuses heavily on learning and making repertory dances that are performed at school activities, in the Fall Dance Showcase, and in the Spring Dance Revue. Students will learn choreography and also choreographic theory and methodology. Students often collaborate with the instructor and each other in the creation of dances. Methods of generating movement and building choreography are also addressed, and students’ choreography is included in some pieces. A visiting guest teacher is brought in during the winter term to give students a broader dance experience.

Students who wish to dance and perform but who are not cast in Dance Company or are unable to commit to the full year of after-school rehearsals for Dance Company are strongly encouraged to sign up for the Art of Dance and Dance Performance Ensemble daytime classes. *Note: Dance Company is cast by audition. Auditions are held at the start of the fall term.*

