

Allen I.S.D. Advanced Music Course

Grades 10 - 12

Description:

1. Advanced Music

a) Course Description

This course is designed to allow students the opportunity to extend their musical education in an enriched, independent curriculum for college readiness. Students must demonstrate a higher level of musical understanding and be able to perform at the highest possible level both as an individual and as a member of an ensemble. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of critical listening, musical understanding, technical ability, knowledge of the theoretical and historical foundations of compositions and present information in a well-written academic manner.

b) Student Expectations

This course is designed for students with elevated performance, communication and cognitive skills. Due to the independent nature of this course, students who elect to pursue advanced credit should be self-motivated and responsible. All assignments will be completed independently with the time-line provided by the instructor.

c) Admissions Criteria

In order to enroll in any advanced music course a student must:

- 1) Be enrolled in a fine arts music performing class (band/orchestra/choir) simultaneously; yearlong course;
- 2) Be recommended by the music director;
- 3) Have earned a minimum grade of **90** in the subject for which the student is applying their previous year (9-11)
- 4) Have a proven history of musical performance beyond the classroom (i.e. Solo & Ensemble, All-Region, UIL ensemble contests, etc.);

2. Elements and Objectives:

a) Solo

Students will perform music at the highest UIL performance level or equivalent advanced performance level. An assessment by a music director will also be required.

The students will adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) Students will have piano or appropriate accompaniment on selections for which an accompaniment is written
- 2) The majority of the performance time during the performance must be on the student's primary instrument. The primary instrument is defined as that which is specifically served within the prescribed Allen I.S.D. music curriculum.
- 3) Individual directors may define specific criteria regarding the length of performances and required languages.

b) Research Paper/Project

Students will prepare a paper and a project on a musical selection or composer chosen for solo/ensemble, band/orchestra/choir concert selections, or other appropriate musical topics within one (1) year (one per semester.) Research should include accurate citations for all references consulted. Topics should be proposed in writing and receive director approval in advance. Topics may approach the music or composer in any of the following ways:

- 1) Stylistic and technical demands of the music;
- 2) Background of the composers;
- 3) Historical, economic, and political background of the period in which the compositions were written and their effect on the music; or
- 4) Other options approved by the student's director.

c) Participation in Competitive Events

Students will compete in the first round of the All-Region Music competition and TMEA All Region. Students will also enter and perform in UIL Concert/Sightreading Contest with their performing group(s) (Band, Orchestra, Choir).

d) Concert Critique.

Students will attend six professional, semi-professional or amateur music performances within one (1) year. Selection of these events must have director's prior approval. A written critique must be submitted to the director following the performance. The critique should include background information about the performing ensemble, repertoire performed by the ensemble, historical and stylistic considerations in the performance as well as your enjoyment of the performance. This rubric must be stapled to the top of the critique. The concert program must also be turned in with the critique. The student's name should be written on the program, but do not staple the program to the critique. First person will not be used when writing the concert critiques. A concert critique cannot be one in which the student was a performer.

- Allen ISD UIL and Pre-UIL Concerts
- Allen Philharmonic and Symphony Chorus – www.allenphilharmonic.org
- Dallas Symphony – www.DallasSymphony.com
- Dallas Opera – www.dallasopera.org
- Plano Community Band – www.planoband.com
- Dallas Wind Symphony – www.dsw.org
- Lone Star Wind Orchestra - <http://www.lonestarwindorchestra.com/>

3. Evaluation

This course is open to all students in grades 10 -12. It is a 4.5 GPA credit course for Level II and a 5.0 GPA credit course for Level III and Level IV. The student will receive a class grade each six weeks in the Advanced Music Program based on the Allen Independent School District grading policy. The grade will reflect the evaluation of comprehensive activities and materials required for the advanced music course.

Time Line for Advanced Music Requirements

Semester I

- Participation in all competitive events/performances
- Performance of Region music to a director
- Research paper
- At least 3 of 6 required concert/performance critiques

Semester II

- Participation in all competitive events/performances
- Performance of UIL Solo to a director
- Project
- At least 3 of 6 required concert/performance critiques

Allen I.S.D. Advanced Music Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why implement an Advanced Music credit grade point scale for Allen I.S.D. students who participate in Fine Arts?***
 - To give students an opportunity for a more rigorous curriculum in the music program for college readiness.
 - To provide advanced credit for the higher level of music achievement within a curriculum structure.
- 2. When would grade points be added to Advanced Music students?***

Grade points for these courses begin with the sophomore class of 2011 – 2012. 4.5 for Level II and 5.0 for Level III and Level IV. Students will be able to make out four year plans with this knowledge.
- 3. How do I know which Level course to take?***

10th grade – Level II (4.5 credit); 11th grade – Level III (5.0 credit); and 12th grade – Level IV (5.0 credit)
- 4. Which music courses would offer advanced credit?***

Advanced credit available to all students in grades 10 – 12 in all sections of band/orchestra and choir.. Advanced credit is given with the completion of Advanced Music course requirements. Most participants of the advanced music program are in the top ensembles (Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Select Choir) but not be limited to those courses. This is a yearlong course.
- 5. Would regular and advanced credit students take class at the same time? If so, what additional work would be required of the advanced credit students and when would they do it?***

Yes, students are enrolled concurrently. Advanced Music students will be required to successfully complete additional assignments per semester that are not part of the regular course curriculum. These assignments include: Participation in competitive events, research paper, project, concert evaluations, and Solo/Ensemble performances. Much of the advanced credit work is done outside of class.
- 6. How would advanced student's grades be computed?***

Students will successfully complete the additional assigned projects just as they do in other Independent Study classes.