

Welcome to the Oak Ridge High School Band Program!

For over 35 years, Oak Ridge High School has set a standard for scholastic music ensemble performance opportunities. The focus of the music program at Oak Ridge High School has been to model, showcase, recognize and provide individual, teacher, and organizational examples of music performance excellence and achievement. The ensemble experiences contribute to student training, growth, development of self worth, accountability, and leadership potential, as well as life long learning and appreciation for music and the arts. The program continues to promote societal recognition of music education as an essential and core part of every student's educational development.

A vast amount of scientific research shows that children who study music experience greater success in all of their studies, exhibit better ability to work in teams, have enhanced creative and critical thinking skills, have higher average SAT and ACT scores as well as higher graduation rates. Band students, at Oak Ridge, are accepted to a college or university 40% more often than non-band students. Past Oak Ridge band students have attended many of the most prestigious colleges and universities including Stanford University, University of California, Berkeley, USC, Cal Poly, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins Peabody Conservatory of Music, Julliard, University of Pacific, Oregon, Texas, Sacramento State, Fresno State, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UCLA, University of Washington, and UC Santa Barbara.

The band program at Oak Ridge forms a vital and important part of the total high school experience. Members of Oak Ridge instrumental groups enjoy involvement in a campus organization that provides immediate identity and purpose. The program provides exceptional platforms for student performance and education in marching band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, percussion, and guitar. Performance opportunities for its students include: home football and basketball games, band reviews, special performance opportunities, jazz festivals, concert festivals, spring trip, winter and spring concerts, and Prism.

The band program is a performance oriented program which is recognized throughout the state for its excellence and high standards which include consistent superior and excellent festival ratings at Concert, Jazz, and Marching Festivals, performances at the California Music Educators State Conference, the California Band Directors State Conference, numerous sweepstakes awards at the Heritage Music Festivals, and, representing the state of California at the Festival of States in Washington DC..

Being in the band creates friendships for life and some of the most rewarding and memorable high school experiences. Why would one want to miss out on these experiences and opportunities?

I look forward to your participation in the Oak Ridge High School Instrumental Music Program.

Musically,
Paul W. Varoff
Director of Instrumental Music

Oak Ridge High School
Instrumental Music Program

Advanced Band/Wind Ensemble

This group is our most prestigious and advanced concert ensemble at Oak Ridge. Membership is by audition and/or recommendation of the Oak Ridge Band Director. The group generally performs literature designed for one player per part. There are higher expectations of the students as it pertains to musicianship, rehearsal, and performance expectations. In addition to the school schedule, the group rehearses on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The interdependence of each member of the group is vital to the success of the group. One can look at winds as the AP Band class. The Wind Ensemble performs at many of the same festivals and competitions as the Symphonic Band. As with the Symphonic Band, students gain additional experience in music appreciation and marching fundamentals. During the fall, the group is a part of the Marching/Pep Band.

Advanced Band/Symphonic Band

Membership is by recommendation of the high school director. Students must have at least one year of experience on a major instrument. Auditions may be required. The group has the same standards and expectations as the Wind Ensemble with the focus of the group on instrumental and performance fundamentals as well as the Symphonic Band literature. Students will gain additional experience in music appreciation and marching fundamentals. During the fall the group combines with the Wind Ensemble as a part of the Marching/Pep Band.

Jazz Ensemble

This course is open to all advanced sax, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm players. Enrollment may be limited, which may call for auditions in those sections having more people than needed. Students are required to enroll concurrently in Advanced Symphonic/ Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, or another music class. Exceptions may be granted for the piano, bass, and guitar positions. This is a performance class which students receive an academic grade, credit, and follows the same basic expectations as Advanced Band. Music played is accepted jazz improvisation literature as well as standard repertoire. With our new schedule, the Jazz Ensemble class meets 6th Period. Jazz Students typically carry a seven period schedule with two of those periods being

band classes. This is possible with good schedule planning for all four years of High school.

Marching Band

All students enrolled in the band program are required to participate in the Marching Band and at all rehearsals, competitions (4-5), and football games (5-7). The group rehearses one or two nights per week (usually Tuesdays and Thursdays), occasional Saturdays, and after school on game days during the fall semester. Marching Band is a component of each student's band curriculum, which factors into their fall semester grade.

Pep Band (Basketball)

All students in the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the Pep Band at 5 basketball games per year. Students choose which games to attend that best fits their personal schedules. No additional rehearsals are required.

Drumline

Members are enrolled in either the Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band. This group forms the Percussion Line for the Marching Band. They are assigned instruments and parts based on an audition conducted by the drumline instructor. Assignments are based on need, ability, and the best placement in regard to the line as a whole. The section rehearses one evening per week in addition to the Marching Band Rehearsal.

Colorguard

The team is comprised of two groups, the Identification Unit and the Flag Team. They are members of the Marching Band and rehearse two nights per week during the fall semester. They also attend and perform at all Marching Band events and performances. The members of this team are not enrolled in a band class. They volunteer their time and do not receive a grade.

Guitar/Ukelele

This class is open to students who wish to learn the Guitar or Ukelele. Student skill levels range from Beginning to Advanced. Students learn music reading and theory fundamentals as well as Guitar techniques and skills.

Frequently asked Questions

Which Band do I sign up for?

Sign up for Course: 0655...Advanced Band / Symphonic
Place Symphonic Band as #1 under electives on your course request form.

Auditions for Wind Ensemble will take place later in the semester. Information will be sent to your Directors and posted on the Music Boosters website.

What about Jazz Ensemble?

You may sign up for Jazz Ensemble. You will need to place Jazz as #2 under electives on your course request form. Students will need to be concurrently enrolled in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble. Auditions for Jazz will be held later in the spring. Information will be sent to your Directors and posted on the Music Boosters website.

Does Band take up all of my time?

NO! Band is a commitment just as other classes and sports, but does not prevent you from having a life.

What is the time commitment beyond the school day?

Regardless if you are in band, your high school years will be busy. For Band, the fall semester is the busiest time. Besides performances, weekly evening rehearsals are required for the Wind Ensemble, Drumline, Colorguard, and Marching Band. The Marching Band also rehearses after school on game days. It may all sound

overwhelming, but once you establish a routine and organize your schedule, you will do just fine.

My student wants to participate in a sport or cheer. Do they have to choose between the two?

Absolutely not! Many band and choir students are active in one or more sports, cheer, clubs, and other student groups. These students are quite busy, but do very well in school. The directors and coaches are happy to work with students to compromise and coordinate schedules to allow students to participate in multiple activities. However, there are situations where conflicts occur. It is always best for the student to speak with the band director to assist with conflicts.

What about other extra-curricular activities?

We believe strongly in well rounded students. Band students are some of the most involved and sought after students on campus. Every facet of student life on campus has band students involved to some degree; volunteering off campus, church, youth groups, student leadership, etc. No matter what activities you pursue, you must keep an accurate schedule and have good time management skills in order to avoid conflicts.

Is it hard to get an "A" in Band?

95% of our students receive an "A" or "B" on their semester report card. Just like any other subject you will take at Oak Ridge, students must earn their grade, do homework (practice), pass part tests, demonstrate proper rehearsal etiquette, etc. Students do not receive an "A" for just attending class and rehearsals.

Most importantly, the music programs provide a support system for your student. There will always be someone who had the same class and the same teacher willing to help. Music students frequently tutor other students, and we are proud to say that our Trojan musicians have some of the highest GPA's on campus!

Can I be in Band all four years?

YES! Many students take band all four years. **It is one of the most important subjects you can take that will have a major influence on your acceptance to college.** Some band students are enrolled in more than one music class, band or choir. Many of these students are also enrolled in many of the Advanced and AP classes that are offered. There are course conflicts with band. However, many Band students take 7 classes to in order to avoid these conflicts.

What about costs?

Maintaining a high quality marching, concert, and jazz program is an expensive endeavor. We need your help to make sure that our program is able to offer this wide spectrum of activities to your student and to future students! Families are asked to contribute towards the expenses through fundraising and donations.

Donations range from \$250 to \$1000. Donations and fundraising help cover expenses that include uniforms, concert wear, festival fees, transportation, meals, consultant stipends, and instrument up keep, amongst other expenses.

NO STUDENT WILL BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS.

Can Parents get involved?

YES! YES! YES! Your student's opportunity to participate in the Band program is dependent, in part, on the financial and volunteer support you provide. The Oak Ridge Music Boosters is a very active parent organization that supports the music program by feeding, dressing, measuring, driving, building, setting up, tearing down.....you get the idea. We have a lot of fun and believe it or not, your kids DO want you there! The Music Boosters meet once a month and do all they can to support the music program.

MUSIC AND OTHER ACADEMIC CLASS REQUIREMENTS

The El Dorado Union High School District graduation requirements are in line with the California State University/University of California A-G entrance requirements with the exception of the CSU/UC foreign language requirement.

The Fine Arts component is required by each of the three education paths displayed and is satisfied by enrollment in a music class. Taking additional music classes also completes elective requirements for all three systems.

The A-G requirements are 7 subject categories that are required for entrance into the CSU/UC system. The following chart displays the unit requirements for EDUHSD/CSU/UC systems.

A-G Requirements	Unit Requirements		
Subject	EDUHSD	CSU	UC
A.) Social Studies Health/Computers	40	20	20
B.) English	40	40	40

C.) Mathematics	30	30/40	30/40
D.) Science	20	20	20/30
E.) Foreign Language	0	20	20/30
F.) Fine Arts	10	10	10
G.) College Prep. Elective	80	20	20
Life Fitness	20	0	0
Totals	240	160- 170	160- 190

A CURRICULUM PLAN WITH FOUR YEARS OF MUSIC

Below is a samples of four year high school schedules. It provides for a four year music curriculum as well as satisfying the CSU/UC entrance requirements and recommended classes. As shown below music can be taken for four years in a seven period schedule with all other college preparation classes in place and while still retaining additional electives options. All four high schools have jazz ensembles. Some classes occurring within the school day and others during zero periods (EDHS, ORHS, and UMHS). If the jazz ensemble occurs during zero it is an additional 8th or 9th period class outside of the schedule below and will not affect the elective offerings.

SAMPLE STUDENT SCHEDULES TO CONSIDER

This schedule fulfills the minimum requirements for Graduation, UC, CSU and allows for Band 4 years.

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Language	Science	Science	Science
4	Health/ICT	History	History	Gov't/Econ
5	PE	Language	Language	PE
6	Band	Band	Band	Band

This schedule allows: Science 4 years, Language 4 years, Band 4 years, PE first 2 years, 2 open electives Jr and Sr. years. (possible jazz???)

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math

3	Science	Science	Science	Science
4	Health/ICT	History	History	Gov't/Econ
5	PE	PE		
6	Language	Language	Language	Language
7	Band	Band	Band	Band

This schedule allows the possibility of Jazz and Concert Band 4 years, Language 3 years but split 9-11-12

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Language	Science	Science	Science
4	Health/ICT	History	History	Gov't/Econ
5	PE	PE	Language	Language
6	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz
7	Band	Band	Band	Band

This schedule allows: Science 9-10-11, PE 9-12, Language 9-10-11 with an option of 4th year, Jazz only 10-11-12

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Science	Science	Science	
4	Health/ICT	History	History	Gov't/Econ
5	PE	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz
6	Language	Language	Language	PE
7	Band	Band	Band	Band

This schedule does the following: Science 10-11-12, PE 9-12, Language 9-10-11, Jazz and Band 4 years

	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Sophomore</u>	<u>Junior</u>	<u>Senior</u>
1	English	English	English	English
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	Language	Science	Science	Science
4	Health/ICT	History	History	Gov't/Econ
5	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz	Jazz
6	PE	Language	Language	PE
7	Band	Band	Band	Band

The ultimate goal is for each student to be in a Concert Band four years. It is possible with a 6 period schedule. However, a 7 period schedule will provide more options and opportunities to fit in additional classes. For most students interested in taking Band for 4 years, a 7 period schedule is a must!!!

Is Music Academic?

Written By Kyle Wagner
ORHS Class of 2002

The question of music's academic value has been intensely debated for quite some time amongst politicians, administrators, and advocates for other interest groups. However, just recently the contention against music has resurfaced when compared to after school tutoring or sports practices. And while I realize that I am preaching to the choir, due to recent statements I have overheard, I am compelled to refute the issue that "music is NOT academic".

According to Mr. Webster, academics pertain to areas of study that are not primarily vocational which take place at an educational institution. It almost goes without saying that music obviously fulfills all of these prerequisites. Nevertheless, many people still consider academics to be purely reading, writing, and arithmetic. To this I have some things to say. As a Senior, I have had to endure many "academic" courses, most of which I have already completely forgotten about. Yet, interestingly enough, I still remember the very first song that I learned my freshman year in Choir. There are only three classes I have taken in high school that make my brain hurt: A.P. History, A.P.

English, and Choir. And anyone in the music program can attest that it's not just an easy "A".

While one class may require a lot of homework, the study of music entails massive amounts of out of class efforts as well as some degree of skill. As a part of learning each piece of music, there is a great deal of mathematical rhythm, in-depth literary analysis, philosophical debate, not to mention study in foreign language. How often are all of those elements included in one course?

Some people may only see results in rewards. Well, our music program wins more awards than any other program at Oak Ridge High School. While most people play sports, they don't go on to play in college and most likely won't be paid for it. Not only am I going on to choir in college, but also I have received a large scholarship to do so. I have also been told that music majors' programs are just as rigorous as pre-law and nursing.

I have been truly enriched through my experiences here, and yes, I've had to work hard at it, harder than most of my "academic" classes. But this class has not only fostered my intellectual abilities but also fostered the growth of my personhood. How's that for academic? To me it reaches far and above.

So, Is Music Academic?.....At ORHS it is!

When students attend Oak Ridge High School, they choose or are required to take various subjects. Subjects that may include some type of math, history, science, English, PE, art, **band**, choir, drama, dance, foreign language, industrial arts, teachers assistant, etc. These are ALL subjects offered. They are ALL subjects considered "core subjects". Core meaning they are considered important for students to have a foundation of knowledge. Each subject is important for students to know as it prepares them for life beyond high school. Along with those subjects are the professional educators that teach those subjects and who have expectations and standards, many very similar. When you compare the subjects below, they, too, have many similarities. To understand the similarities, one must understand the terminology when comparing Band to another subject.

<u>Band</u>		<u>Subject ?</u>
Must attend class (rehearsals)		Must attend class
Rehearsal	=	Class

Study material/parts	=	Study material
Practice	=	Homework
Quizzes/Tests on parts	=	Quizzes/Tests on material
Performances	=	Exams (midterm/finals)
Receive Grade		Receive Grade
Receive 5 credit/ semester		Receive 5 credit/ semester
Required to Graduate EDUHSD		Required to Graduate EDUHSD
Sectionals/ additional rehearsals	=	Group study sessions
Required for UC/CSU entry		Required for UC/CSU entry
State Standards/Expectations		State Standard/Expectations
District/School Standards/Expectations		District/School Standard/Expectations

Performance based subjects (band, choir, drama) have some of the highest, if not the highest, standards and expectations of any subject. If every student got a 95% on a math exam, most would consider that pretty successful. However, in performing arts, if every performer (student) performed at 95%, people would wonder what is wrong, that was not a very good performance, that didn't sound very good.

With this information in mind, one can see why Oak Ridge High School values the Arts as academic, as much as any other subject.