

How to Pick Your Classes: for Music Students

Thursday, February 4, 2021

What opportunities do we offer?

- There's some class for all ability levels, but some are better suited for beginners than others.
- Concert Band
- String/Full Orchestra
- Choir
- Guitar Ensemble
- Jazz Band/Combo
- Honors Credit
- Options to participate in a variety of small ensembles

How do music classes relate to the Arts Academy?

- Music, and many other arts classes at Rancho, are not part of the Arts Academy. This means you do not have to be in the Arts Academy to do music classes.
- You can also take many Academy classes without being in that Academy.

What music class should I take?

- At this time, the simplest thing to help decide is prior experience.
- If you have an instrumental background in woodwinds, brass, percussion, or strings you will most likely put **Concert Band**.
- If you have an interest in Choral or Vocal music, then choose **Concert Choir**.
- If you play piano you could pick Concert Choir or Concert Band. Your experience level can help determine which is better. However, we have always used student accompanists at Rancho for Choir and are always looking to keep students in this role.
- Most guitarists or anyone interested in learning to play guitar should choose **Guitar Ensemble**.

How do I fit music classes into my schedule?

- The best place to start is to look at the sample 4-year schedules.
- Remember, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to high school course selection.
- Colleges love seeing you committed to something for 4 years! Trying a little bit here and there isn't as impressive nor will you ever get good at something that way. There is no such thing as a "natural" at anything. You will only get good after you have committed time and energy into it.
- Know the graduation requirements and overlap of academy classes.