

Course Justification:

These two courses are simply an extension to what already exists with the band. They, however, allow for a more specialized and developed focus on the specific techniques and skills that are required in understanding and performance. It is our intent for these two ensembles to meet during the same period as a part of the regular academic day just as the band already does.

Importance of Percussion Ensemble

In the course of a regular band rehearsal a majority of the time gets spent on the wind players. Percussion then, is left on their own many times or has to put in additional rehearsal time after school in order to learn the same amount and have the attention and focus of the director. By separating them into their own section and class period, one can give them the direct attention and guidance to meet their many and direct needs in learning the multitude of instruments found within the percussion section. Having a strong percussion section also helps to create a better band as a whole. There is less down time on the part of the students and an increased opportunity for them to learn.

Why Color Guard?

We have traditionally had a flag corp group as an integral part of our marching band. These girls put in numerous hours outside of the school day (including evenings and weekends) to learn their routines. However the understanding of movement in relation to music and rhythm is an actual art that can be studied and applied beyond rote memorization of routines. As a class, the concepts can actually be taught, practiced, rehearsed and performed. Creating this class gives these students who are interested, the opportunity to learn beyond the basic memorization and to receive credit for all of the hard work they put in that directly contributes to the performance of the band as a whole. It also gives them the opportunity to learn and grow in their own individual performance thru this visual ensemble.