

Instrumental Percussion Major

Description and general information:

This is a vocationally focused, four-year sequential program for the serious percussionist (Instruments studied include snare drum, timpani, xylophone, marimba, and auxiliary percussion). The primary concentration of this course is the development of total musicianship for the percussionist through experiential learning in brass instrument technique, repertoire, performance practices, critical thinking and other aspects of musicianship as well as career and professional organizations. The students in this program must also register for the appropriate levels of VPA Music History, VPA Music Theory, and RBR Band. AP Music theory is the required in the fourth year of the program.

Scope and Sequence of study:

| 9 th Grade | 10 th grade | 11 th Grade | 12 th Grade |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Percussion Major 1* Band | Percussion Major 2* Band | Percussion Major 3* Band | Percussion Major 4* Band |
| VPA Music Theory 1 | VPA Music Theory 2 | VPA Music Theory 3 | AP Music Theory |
| VPA Music History 1 | VPA Music History 2 | VPA Music History 3 | Composing & Arranging^ |

*Indicates class meets daily for 82-minute block (both A & B Day)

^suggested elective/course for this major

Application/Audition/Interview/Portfolio requirements for Percussion Major:

Part I*

Applicants are required to prepare two pieces of contrasting styles and period. (These pieces should be of comparable difficulty to the Intermediate All-Shore Band solo or Youth/Regional Orchestra solo.)

Percussion candidates should prepare 2 pieces, one for snare drum and one for mallet percussion.

Part II

Students must also play major scales (6 sharps-6 flats) memorized, in the pattern of a quarter note followed by 6 eighth notes. We follow the range requirements of CJMEA which can be found under "audition information" on their website: www.cjmea.org

Part III

All prospective instrumental candidates will take a written music theory/history placement exam to test their previous musical knowledge. Although students will not be expected to know everything on the exam, it will include notation, musical terms, symbols, key signatures, chords, scales, form, analysis, rhythmic reading and ear training.

The history portion will include questions about composers, time periods and genres, musical styles, performance practices and terminology.

*Your present music teacher should be able to assist you in the selection of these pieces