

Piano Major

Description and general information:

This is a vocationally focused, performance-based, sequential course that prepares the serious piano student for the demands required to pursue music in a Conservatory, College or University. The curriculum, at each level, includes form and analysis, ear training, theory, music history, sight reading, and ensemble playing as well as career and professional organizations. The student is encouraged, but not required, to study privately with a piano teacher and to perform throughout the year for any of a number of programs. Each student will be required to perform in two piano concerts as a soloist, accompanist or in ensemble. The curriculum may also include guest artists and various field trips. The student in this program must also register for the appropriate levels of VPA Music History and VPA Music Theory. These classes meet daily for an 82-minute block. AP Music Theory is required in grade 12.

Scope and Sequence of study:

9 th Grade	10 th grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Piano Major 1*	Piano Major 2*	Piano Major 3*	Piano Major 4*
Music Appreciation^	Music Appreciation^	Music Appreciation^	Music Appreciation^
Music Theory^	Music Theory^	Music Theory^	Music Theory^
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^	

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

^suggested elective/course for this major

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

Part I*

Students must perform one piece each from any two of the following major musical periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionistic or Twentieth Century. ** Original, jazz or popular piano selections will **NOT BE ACCEPTED**.* Students interested in piano accompaniment must perform three selections: one from the Romantic Period, one art song from a song cycle, and one choral selection.

Part II

Applicants will be asked to sight-read an open score

Part III

play major scales (sharps and flats) and arpeggios.

Part IV

All prospective piano and vocal performance 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