

# BHS Music Department

## Information Night for Incoming 9th Graders

**Wednesday, February 12, 2019, 7:00 - 8:15**  
BHS Florence Schwimley Little Theater

### Hello Families of Incoming Ninth Graders!

We are excited to welcome you to the Berkeley High School Music Program! We know that at this time of year when students are choosing classes families have a lot of questions, and so this email will attempt to answer some of those that are asked most frequently. If you do not find the information you seek here, please feel free to email us all:

**Karen Wells** (Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra, AP Theory, IB Music): [karenwells@berkeley.net](mailto:karenwells@berkeley.net)

**Mary Dougherty** (Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra): [marydougherty@berkeley.net](mailto:marydougherty@berkeley.net)

**Johnine Hansen** (Chorus): [johninehansen@berkeley.net](mailto:johninehansen@berkeley.net)

**Sarah Cline** (Jazz Lab I, Jazz Lab II, Jazz Ensemble): [sarahcline@berkeley.net](mailto:sarahcline@berkeley.net)

**Pete Gidlund** (info about Chorus) [petergidlund@berkeley.net](mailto:petergidlund@berkeley.net)

Please read the subsequent pages for information on auditions and course schedules

### AUDITIONS for 2020-21

All music auditions are held at BHS, in A201 and begin at 3:30 or 4:00pm. Please read the subsequent pages for information on audition sign-ups and requirements.

Some small schools' schedules will require your student to take music during 0<sup>o</sup>/7<sup>o</sup>. Please check with counselors about this potential conflict and whether these classes are auditioned.

#### **Jazz Lab I (rhythm section only), Jazz Lab II and Jazz Ensemble Auditions**

May 19th (trombones), 20th (trumpets) , 21st (saxes), 26<sup>th</sup> (guitars/pianos/vibes), and 27th (basses, drums, percussion)

- **Advanced 1<sup>o</sup> Chamber Orchestra Auditions (winds and strings and percussion)**

Check bhsbao.org for more info. Check for audition materials and audition times at bhsbao.org

- **Dance Production Audition** 10th/11th grades only, took place already on February 14.

- **All other performing arts classes do not require an audition.**

Please check class descriptions below to see if these classes have a prerequisite.

## CLASSES OFFERED

### **Concert Orchestra (P)**

**\*\*\*now offered 0° AND during the school day!\*\*\***

**Year 10 credits**

In this entry level ensemble, string players study and perform both string and full orchestra literature as well as small ensemble music, developing the craftsmanship and mastery necessary to mold music into a creative expression. *Prerequisite: Fundamental skill level on orchestral string instrument.* Please be aware that 9th and 10th graders in the AHA or CAS schools would not be able to take this class due to scheduling issues. 9th and 10th graders can audition for the 0° Chamber Orchestra as an alternative. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **Concert Band (P)**

**\*\*\*now offered 0° AND during the school day!\*\*\***

**Year 10 credits**

In this entry level class, wind, brass and percussion players study and perform concert/pep band literature as well as full orchestra literature, developing the craftsmanship and mastery necessary to mold music into a creative expression. Please be aware that 9th and 10th graders in the AHA or CAS schools would not be able to take this class due to scheduling issues. 9th and 10th graders can audition for the 0° Chamber Orchestra Wind Ensemble Section as an alternative. *Prerequisite: Fundamental skill level on wind, brass or percussion instrument.* **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **Chamber Orchestra (P)**

**Year 10 credits**

**HONORS CLASS**

**2 sections offered: Wind ensemble section/ String ensemble section.**

In this auditioned ensemble, upper level string, wind, brass and percussion players study and perform orchestral and chamber literature as appropriate, developing the craftsmanship and mastery necessary to mold music into a creative expression. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 3.5 hours/week, and will create electronic portfolios showing their growth throughout the year. Students in this ensemble can expect to have many opportunities to perform throughout the course, including festivals and competitions. This group tours every other year. *Prerequisite: Audition and teacher consent.*

**This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

**Students interested in auditioning should sign up for the 9th Elective Concert Band or Concert Orchestra during the day, and ALSO sign up for an audition. Your schedule will be adjusted after your audition. Check bhsbao.org for audition materials and audition times.**

### **Fundamentals of Woodwinds**

**Year 10 credits**

In this basic class, students who have little or no experience on a woodwind instrument can gain the experience necessary to move into an entry level high school ensemble. Instruction will be offered on flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe or bassoon. We will play music in a variety of styles, and listen regularly to recordings of great woodwind players. Students do not need to read music in order to enter this class; they will learn to read as part of the class goals. Students are expected to participate in two concerts per year. Instruments are provided. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **Fundamentals of Brass**

**Year 10 credits**

In this basic class, students who have little or no experience on a brass instrument can gain the experience necessary to move into an entry level high school ensemble. Instruction will be offered on trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone or tuba. We will play music in a variety of styles, and listen regularly to recordings of great brass players. Students do not need to read music in order to enter this class; they will learn to read as part of the class goals. Students are expected to participate in two concerts per year. Instruments are provided. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **Fundamentals of Strings**

**Year 10 credits**

An introduction to string instruments, exploring a variety of styles: Classical, Mariachi, Irish and American fiddle. Students who have little or no experience on a string instrument can gain the experience necessary to move into an entry level high school ensemble. Instruction will be offered on violin, viola, cello and bass. Students do not need to read music in order to enter this class; they will learn to read as part of the class goals. In addition, as we study music primarily taught through oral tradition, we will learn music by ear. Students are expected to participate in two concerts per year. Instruments are provided. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **AP Music Theory (AP)**

**Year 10 credits**

This is a college level music theory course covering both written theory and ear training. This class will include the following: music theory, composition, dictation, and sight singing. This course is designed to prepare the high school musician for the Advanced Placement exam in Music Theory. *Prerequisite: Consent of teacher, working knowledge of major and minor scales and circle of fifths, ability to read music in at least two clefs, course is meant for juniors/seniors.*

### **Music Perception and Analysis IB (SL) (HL)**

**Year 10 credits**

Musical Perception and Analysis is designed to prepare students to analyze widely diverse musical genres and styles from both a historical and a cultural perspective. Students study elemental building blocks of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form) as well as the function of music. This stream of study culminates in a study of IB prescribed works. Students study a variety of cultural topics and eras of music, as well as a study of tradition and popular music styles. Students learn how to write

about music. This stream of study culminates in the Musical Links Investigation, a required element of the diploma in music. This course is designed to prepare the high school musicians for the IB diploma in music. *Prerequisite: Consent of teacher, ability to read music, working knowledge of major and minor scales and circle of fifths.* course is meant for juniors/seniors.

## Chorus (P)

**\*\*\*now offered 0° AND during the school day!\*\*\***

Year · 10

### Credits

This class emphasizes the fundamentals of vocal technique and performances of a varied repertoire of choral music. The class typically performs Broadway, rock, gospel, soul and art music. Students also have the opportunity to perform as soloists and small groups. The chorus performs in two concerts each year (one fall, one spring) plus a district choral festival, also in the spring. Students do not need to read music in order to enter the class; they will learn to read as the class progresses. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

## Beginning/Intermediate Guitar

Year - 10 Credits

Students will learn chords and strumming techniques to be proficient-to-advanced guitar players using a variety of genres (classical, jazz, pop, rock, R&B, blues, folk, etc.). Students do not need to read music in order to enter this class; they will learn to read as part of the class goals. Class structure is student-centered, catering to students' individual interests, learning style, and pace. Guitars are provided. Any level of experience (including no experience) is welcome. Students are required to participate in two concerts per school year. **P credit pending.**

## Jazz Lab Band I

Year 10 credits

This class focuses on developing skills necessary for woodwind, brass, string, and rhythm section players to play jazz with facility. Topics include jazz theory, history, improvisation, sight reading of typical jazz rhythms, and ensemble playing techniques for big band (and combo arrangements for rhythm section players). Students are required to participate in 3 concerts per year. **Prerequisite:** at least 7th grade level ability to read music and play your instrument with good technique. This class is not for beginners, but is a continuation of middle school music classes. **Admission is by audition, and if there is additional space left in the class after the audition process, saxophone, trumpet or trombone players may gain admission by sending in a recommendation from their middle school music teacher. Audition materials are available at [bhsjazz.org](http://bhsjazz.org) on April 15 of each year.** Because this is a performing ensemble, class size is limited to 2 each of piano/bass/vibes/guitar and drums, 10 woodwinds/strings (saxes, clarinets, flutes, violins, violas), 7 trumpets and 7 trombones. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

## Jazz Lab Band II

Year 10 credits

In this class we continue the work begun in jazz lab I, focusing on more advanced jazz theory, improvising over more complex harmonies, sight reading more complex passages, creating more compelling grooves, and working to perfect harder big band arrangements. This band performs frequently – at least 4 concerts and 2 competitive jazz festivals per year, all of which are required (calendar handed out the first day of school). Students are expected to practice a minimum of 3 hours/week. **Prerequisite:** all students must read music and play their instruments at a 10th grade level or higher. Although satisfactory completion of jazz lab I is preferred, it is possible for advanced students to audition into lab II without taking lab I. **Admission is by audition only, and auditions are held in mid- May. Audition materials are available at [bhsjazz.org](http://bhsjazz.org) on April 15.** Instrumentation is limited to 2 each of rhythm section players (piano, guitar, vibes, bass, drums), 5 trumpets, 5 trombones, and up to 8 saxes. On rare occasions an advanced player on a non-traditional big band instrument may be granted admission by permission of the instructor. Incoming freshmen who would like to audition for Jazz Lab II must sign up for Jazz Lab I – once audition results are in your schedule will be adjusted. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

## Jazz Ensemble

Year 10 credits

Honors Class

The Berkeley High School Jazz Ensemble is one of the top high school jazz groups in the country, and this is an honors class (pending UC approval). Advanced students on traditional big band instruments are encouraged to audition. The focus of the class is on increasing skill at jazz improvisation, and performing advanced big band charts. Skills addressed include jazz articulation and phrasing, sight reading advanced charts, group blend and balance, developing hard swinging grooves, comping effectively, and creating exciting improvised solos over chord changes from the Great American Songbook. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 3.5 hours/week, and will create electronic portfolios showing their growth throughout the year. This band performs frequently – at least 6 concerts and 3 competitive festivals yearly, all of which are required (calendar handed out the first day of school). The band tours internationally every other year, and fundraises actively. **Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of Jazz Lab II is preferred but not required. **Admission by audition only. Audition materials are available at [bhsjazz.org](http://bhsjazz.org) on April 15 of each year.** Class size is limited to one or two each of rhythm sections players (piano, bass, drums, guitar and vibes), 5 trumpets, 5 trombones, and 6 saxes/woodwinds. Occasionally a student on a non-traditional big band instrument will be admitted with permission of the instructor if s/he is an outstanding soloist (for example, on violin). Incoming freshmen who would like to audition for Jazz Ensemble should register for Jazz Lab I – once audition results are in your schedule will be adjusted. **This course fulfills UC/CSU Visual and Performing Arts (f) requirement.**

### **African Haitian Dance- Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced**

**10 Credits**

As one of the courses of the African American Studies Program, the objective of this course is to present means by which students can understand African and African-derived cultures through direct experience in the education of music and dance and its relationship to and influence on contemporary dance. While providing historical structure, technique and discipline, students are exposed to a wide variety of dance styles and are provided with an alternative learning atmosphere, which is beneficial physically, mentally and spiritually. Open to both males and females, 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. **This course may be taken as PE or Performing Arts credit. 9th – 12th grade. UC/CSU (f)**

### **Beginning Modern/Jazz Dance (P)**

**Year · 10 Credits**

Everyone is welcome. This is a mixed level class, appropriate for students with little to no dance training, along with experienced dancers who are new to Modern & Jazz. This course introduces the building blocks of Modern/Jazz technique, including flexibility and strength training, turns, weight shifts, floor work, and partnered movement. Daily practice includes technique, improvisation and creative composition, in a collaborative, supportive environment. Students perform in one formal dance concert each semester, along with multiple informal studio performances throughout the year. **This course may be taken as PE or Performing Arts credit. 9th – 12th grade. UC/CSU (f)**

### **Advanced Dance/Dance Projects**

**(P) Year · 10 Credits**

Also known as **Advanced Dance Lab**, this course builds upon the skills developed in Beginning Modern/Jazz. We focus on more challenging Modern/Jazz technique, including faster tempos, longer compositions, inversions, weight exchange and Contact Improvisation. Students are expected to have a comfortable knowledge of choreographic elements. Dancers have multiple performances throughout the year, including a formal concert of student-directed choreography in the spring semester, all of which is required. Guest Choreographers and Master Classes enrich the curriculum throughout the year. Course syllabus may include: improvisation as performance, performance critique, field trips to live performance, dance on film and research projects. Students are required to attend rehearsals outside of class time. **Prerequisite:** "A" or "B" in Beginning Dance or teacher recommendation. 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. **This course may be taken as PE or Performing Arts credit. 9th – 12th grade. UC/CSU (f)**

### **Dance Production**

**(P) YEAR 10 Credits HONORS CLASS**

The Berkeley High School Dance Production Class functions as a pre-professional dance company. This is an honors course (pending UC approval). Advanced dancers, with proficiency in Modern, Ballet, Jazz, HipHop and other dance styles are encouraged to audition. This class focuses on developing stage presence, fostering creative expression and discovering choreographic voice. Students create and direct original choreography, working with peers to see their artistic ideas from inception to fruition. Assignments are geared towards expanding choreographic techniques and may include improvisational performance scores, outdoor performance and interdisciplinary projects combining text, dance and music. In the spring semester, the class has the opportunity to be directed by professional guest choreographers. Dancers create an electronic portfolio demonstrating artistic growth throughout the year. Rehearsals outside of class time are required. Dance Production performs twice yearly, over several weekends, all of which are required. **Prerequisite:** This course is available to Juniors and Seniors by audition only. Auditions are held the previous February. **This course may be taken as PE or Performing Arts credit. UC/CSU Honor's Class (pending approval)(f)**

# Signing Up For Classes BEFORE Auditions

## **Jazz Classes**

Entering freshmen who would like to take a jazz class in 2019-2020 should sign up for Jazz Lab I. This class is designed for freshmen who already play an instrument and read music well. Eighth graders are also welcome to audition for Jazz Lab II (our intermediate level classes), and Jazz Ensemble (our advanced class) in May 2019, and if they are accepted into either of those classes counselors will change their schedules (see audition information below). RHYTHM SECTIONS PLAYERS (pianists, drummers, guitar players, bass players) ALL need to audition. ALL horn players are encouraged to audition as well – it is a good experience!

### **Current schedule for jazz classes is:**

2nd period: Jazz Lab I 10:00 BAND

3rd period: Jazz Lab IIa 11:00 BAND

4th period: Jazz Ensemble,

5<sup>th</sup> period: Jazz Lab IIb, 2:00 BAND

7<sup>th</sup> period Jazz Lab IIc, 4:00 BAND

## **Orchestra/Band**

### **Entering 9th graders: sign up for 0° Concert Orchestra or 0° Concert Band **now offered during the school day!****

This class is designed for students who have played their instrument for 3+ years and read music well.

1. entering 9th graders who don't want a 0° band/orch class? **Sign up for 9th elective concert band/orch during the day**
2. entering 9th graders who want to be in band/orch AND Jazz/Chorus/Guitar/extra elective - **sign up for 0° band/orch**
3. entering 9th graders interested in the advanced level 1° Chamber Orchestra: **sign up for 9th elective concert band/orch during the day, AND and audition by checking [bhsbao.org](http://bhsbao.org) for materials and audition times. (see info on auditions below)**

## **Beginners! Signing up for Fundamentals of Music**

Entering freshmen who do not play an instrument, who would like to learn a new instrument, or who play an instrument but do not yet read music well now have the opportunity to sign up for Fundamentals of Woodwinds, Strings, or Brass. Pending funding, ONE of these classes will be taught each year. The woodwinds class offers flute, clarinet and saxophone. Strings offers violin, viola, cello and bass. Brass offers trumpet, trombone, euphonium, horn and tuba. When you sign up, please list all three classes in order of preference (e.g, 1st choice brass, 2nd choice woodwinds, 3rd choice strings). This helps us determine which class to teach each year.

## **Dance**

Entering Freshmen should sign up for either Beginning African Haitian or Beginning Modern/Jazz. These function as mixed-level classes and are appropriate for experienced dancers as well as students with limited or no dance experience.

# **AUDITIONS**

**Jazz Lab I (rhythm section players must audition), Jazz Lab II (everyone auditions), and Jazz Ensemble (everyone auditions)**

This spring, auditions for the 2020-2021 school year will be held on May 19st (trombones), 20th (trumpets), 21st (woodwinds), 26th (pianos, vibes, guitars), and 27th (drums, percussion and basses) beginning at 1:30 each afternoon. Each student registers on April 15th or later at [bhsjazz.org](http://bhsjazz.org) for a 10 minute audition slot. The audition will consist of a prepared piece, scales, and sight reading. Students who would also like to demonstrate their skill at improvisation will have an opportunity to do so. **All of the information, including music to prepare and a place to register for an audition slot, will be available at [www.bhsjazz.org](http://www.bhsjazz.org) on April 15<sup>th</sup>.** Audition results will not be posted this year, but will become available when students pick up their schedules in the fall. If you have any questions jazz auditions, please email [sarahcline@berkeley.net](mailto:sarahcline@berkeley.net)

**Jazz Lab I horn players you do not have to audition!!!** -- just have your music teacher send a short email to [sarahcline@berkeley.net](mailto:sarahcline@berkeley.net) stating that you can handle a beginning high school jazz class. We will hold a lottery for the 10 woodwind, 6 trombone, and 6 trumpet openings for this class.

## **1° Chamber Orchestra (winds/strings)**

Students interested in auditioning should **sign up for the 9th Elective Concert Band or Concert Orchestra during the day, and ALSO sign up for an audition.** Your schedule will be adjusted after your audition. **Check [bhsbao.org](http://bhsbao.org) for audition materials and audition times.** If you have any questions about 1° Chamber Orchestra auditions, please email [karenwells@berkeley.net](mailto:karenwells@berkeley.net) or [marydougherty@berkeley.net](mailto:marydougherty@berkeley.net)

**My child is very interested in Performing Arts Classes. What small school should s/he sign up for?**

Now that we have Universal 9th grade, you don't have to worry about this question until next year, which gives you lots of time to talk with students and parents currently in each school, read through the course catalogue carefully, and educate yourself about what option might be best for your student.