

BAND AND THE RECOMMENDED GRADUATION PROGRAM

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS ON HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION

MUSIC IS PREPARATION FOR LIFE

WHY DO WE LEARN MUSIC?

"Perhaps we've all misunderstood the reason we learn music, and all the arts, in the first place. It is not only so a student can learn the clarinet, or another student can take an acting lesson. It is that for hundreds of years it has been known that teaching the arts, along with history and math and biology, helps to create the "well-rounded mind" that western civilization and America have been grounded upon. We need that "well-rounded mind" now, for it is from creativity and imagination that the solutions to our political and social problems will come."

Richard Dreyfuss, Star of Mr. Holland's Opus, in a speech to the 1996 American Federation of Teachers Convention

We all want our children to experience a healthy, happy and prosperous life and to enjoy themselves in the process. There are certain mental tools which aid in this goal, and music is crucial in honing these tools:

Creativity. Music opens horizons of the minds and supports wonderment, imagination, appreciation, and sensitivity. Creativity is the source of possibility and is a mental muscle that must be trained and exercised often.

Communication. Music is a language beyond words. Music can only be explained with music because of its various styles, textures, tempos, and dynamics. Music truly stirs the soul of people. No words or visual display can come close to the emotional impact of music.

Critical Assessment. Music is one of the key areas where an individual can develop a consistency between intellectual and emotional understanding. Here is the chance to bridge the cognitive and affective data of life, which many feel is the recipe of genius. We can create formulas instead of just solutions, and we can be pro-active rather than re-active. We can open the mind and avoid tunnel vision—and in doing so, come up with discerning opinions which develop quality character.

Commitment. It is almost impossible to be "partially committed" to music. One may quit on a test, refuse to turn in an assignment, or just not be aware of what is going on in a lecture class, but the participation level in music requires a focus of attention unlike most subjects in school. Music causes one to learn persistence and the value of "not giving up,"

even when there is temptation to throw in the towel. Many have pointed to "stay power" as one of the greatest personal attributes in our society. Welcome to one of the key benefits of the study of music.

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ...

...recommends the arts to college-bound junior high and high school students asserting, "Many colleges view participation in arts and music as valuable experience that broadens students' understanding and appreciation of the world around them."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your band director if you have any questions:

Todd Dixon—WHS
Todd.Dixon@wylieisd.net
972-429-3118

Glenn Lambert—WEHS
Glenn.Lambert@wylieisd.net
972-429-3167

RECOMMENDED HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Recommended High School Program (RHSP) is the required program for all freshmen entering high school in 2007 and beyond. This 26 credit plan incorporates the additional required math and science courses mandated by the State Board of Education.

Because of the additional math and science study, the State Board of Education increased

the total number of credits required for graduation under the Recommended High School Program to 26 in order to preserve time for elective courses.

The following courses are required under the RHSP:

English—4 credits
Math—4 credits
Science—4 credits
Social Studies—3.5 credits

Economics—0.5 credit
PE—1.5 credits
Health—0.5 credit
Foreign Language—2 credits
Fine Arts—1 credit
Communication App—0.5 credit
Technology—1 credit
Electives—3.5 credits

School counselors will provide specific information regarding which classes will satisfy course requirements.

BAND AND THE RECOMMENDED GRADUATION PROGRAM

Parents often ask how their students can complete the recommended high school graduation requirements and still participate in band throughout high school. Below are suggested samples of 4-year high school graduation plans.

Many courses must be taken in order (English, Math, Science and Social Studies), however, electives and foreign language classes, among others, can be taken in any year.

Although these sample plans involve minimal or no high school credit in junior high, taking high school credit courses in junior high will certainly help.

W.I.S.D. HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDED PROGRAM WITH BAND

	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
1	English I	English II	English III	English IV
2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4th Science course
4	World Geography	World History	U.S. History	Gov/Eco
5	Band (PE .5/FA .5)	Band (PE .5/FA .5)	Band (PE .5/FA .5)	Band (Elec)
6	Other Lang I	Other Lang II	Elective	Technology
7	Elective	Comm App/Health	Elective	Elective

W.I.S.D. HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDED PROGRAM WITH BAND AND ATHLETICS

	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
1	English I	English II	English III	English IV
2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	4th Science course
4	World Geography	World History	U.S. History	Gov/Eco
5	Band (PE .5/FA .5)	Band (PE .5/FA .5)	Band (PE .5/Elec .5)	Band (Elec)
6	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics	Athletics
7	Other Lang I	Other Lang II	Comm App/Health	Technology

Sources: "WISD Graduation Plan"
 "The Value of Music" by Tim Lautzenheiser - Attitude Concepts for Today
 "How the Arts Develop the Young Brain" by Dr. David A. Sousa
 "Music training improves verbal memory" by A.S. Chan, Y.C. Ho, and M.C. Cheung

INCREASED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

More than 10 million high school students responded to a questionnaire indicating the number of years of fine arts classes they took. Students who took fine arts classes had higher mathematics, verbal and composite SAT scores than students who did not take fine arts classes. Furthermore, the SAT scores increased linearly with the addition of more years of fine arts classes

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER

Researchers suggest that the process of making music can lead to improved listening and memory skills.

A study tested sixty college students for verbal memory. Of the students, those who had music training before the age of twelve recalled more information than did those who did not have early musical instruction.