Beginning Band

Beginning Band is a one year class that teaches a student how to play a band instrument at an accelerated pace so that the student can continue on to Marching Band and Concert Band the subsequent year if he/she chooses. Students are also taught music theory and history. Securing an instrument is the responsibility of the student (easiest done by renting/buying from a local music store) with select instruments available by the school.

Concert Band

Concert Band is a year-long academic class that focuses on the development of various musical skills including performance and practice techniques, music theory, music history, and technical skills within the bounds of individual and group growth. Students participating in Concert Band are expected to perform in the Marching Band in the Fall Semester, and perform at the Winter Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Spring Concert, District Music Festival, Wilson Arts Showcase, Area Concert and Graduation.

Percussion Ensemble

The Percussion Ensemble is a group predominantly made up of current percussion players from the Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band. The class takes place 2nd Semester and concentrates on fundamentals performance skills and musicianship that culminates in various performance opportunities including competitions and concerts including the Wilson Arts Showcase and Spring Concert. Enrollment is also open to select wind players.
Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a class for selected students to learn about jazz performance practices, improvisation, music theory, and jazz history. Students participating in Jazz Band are expected to perform at school activities (rallies and home league basketball games), community events, jazz festivals, the Wilson Arts Showcase, and a Spring Jazz Concert.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is a class intended for advanced music students. In this class, all students should continue developing their performance skills, music theory, and music history. Students participating in Wind Ensemble are expected to perform in the Marching Band in the Fall Semester, and perform at the Winter Concert, Pre-Festival Concert, Spring Concert, District Music Festival, Wilson Arts Showcase, Area Concert and Graduation.

Marching Band

During 1st Semester, the Marching Band performs at field show tournaments, home football games and pep rallies. The competitive season runs from October through the end of November. They compete in approximately six competitions a year in hopes of qualifying for the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association Field Championships. Rehearsals are two evenings a week with additional rehearsals and competitions scheduled most Saturdays through mid-November. Marching Band is taken concurrently with Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, or Jazz Band.

Music Students Are:

Problem Solvers
Creators/Innovators
Logical Thinkers
Technologically Literate
Expressive Communicators

Music Education Is:

Standards Driven Curriculum
Collaborative Learning
Performance Based Assessments
Facilitator Based Teaching
Real-time Feedback

Music Facts:

Students who study music tend to have larger vocabularies, more advanced reading skills, and score higher on standardized tests than their peers who do not participate in performing arts.

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<tr>
<th>Instrumental Music Pathway</th>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Year Three (Laureate)</th>
<th>Year Four (Master Laureate)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Wind Ensemble</td>
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RICH TORRES received his degree and credentials from CSU, Fullerton. While at CSUF, he performed with the top ensembles on saxophone while pursuing his BA in Music Education. He has provided his expertise in woodwind education and music arranging to various programs across So Cal. Before coming to GAWHS, he was the Band Director at Chaffey High School and Duarte High School. During his tenure at these sites, the Music Programs grew as well as accumulated various accolades. He has instructed various levels of wind and jazz ensembles, drumline, color guard and orchestra. He is also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity.