

Visual & Performing Arts

VPA CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA PROGRAM

École Alpha Secondary School is now offering a VPA Certificate/Diploma Program for students that have shown dedication to the Arts. Specific requirements are available from your VPA teacher.

MUSIC COURSES



MUSIC 8: BEGINNER BAND

This course is an introduction course in which students are introduced to the technique, rudiments, and maintenance of a selected band instrument. Concepts such as articulation, embouchure, blend, balance, tone and style are introduced to form a foundation of musical awareness that encourages expression, reflections and performance. Students should choose Beginner Band 8 if they have no previous experience with an instrument.

MUSIC 8: BAND

This course is intended for students who have already taken Elementary Grade 7 Band course. The course will involve instrumental technique, performance, theory, music history and music appreciation as they relate to the repertoire studied. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 8: CHOIR

Choir 8 is intended as an introductory choral experience. While no prior experience is required for this course, previous participation in choir would be an asset. Students will develop music-reading skills, knowledge of music and vocal technique through the performance in choir. Choir is at 7:20 a.m. on alternate days throughout the school year.

MUSIC 9: BAND

This course is intended for students who have taken Junior Band course in Grade 8. The course will involve instrumental technique, performance, theory, music history and music appreciation as they relate to the repertoire studied. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 9: CHOIR

The course will cover basic singing technique, music reading, repertoire understanding, performance and the responsibilities, which go along with working in a group situation. As with all music activities, members of this class should expect that part of their learning situation will involve a commitment to regular home practice and extra-curricular activities. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations. Choir is at 7:20 a.m. on alternate days throughout the school year.

MUSIC 9: JAZZ BAND (*Offered as a 9th course after school*)

Students will gain a general knowledge of jazz styles and interpretation, as well as the techniques and rhythms unique to jazz. Students will learn fundamental jazz improvisation skills. Instruments are: trumpet, trombone, saxophone (alto, tenor, bari) and rhythm section (piano, bass, drums, and guitar). All Jazz Band students must be registered in Concert Band as well. Please see your music teacher if you are interested in this course.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 10

This course is a unique music composition class at Alpha, with a focus on technology. This course is intended for students who have some background in a band program or private piano study for at least two years. Students will learn to explore and arrange sound to form compositions for both live instruments and computer generated sounds. Programs in the music lab include Cubase, Sibelius, and Band in a Box, used with synthesizer workstations. Students will also learn to create recordings of their performances and compositions. Music written by students will be

performed for the class or in the program's Fall and Spring concerts. Students who enjoy a challenge, a sense of accomplishment and are self-motivated will find this course fun and rewarding.

MUSIC 10: GUITAR (Acoustic)

Students will learn basic chord patterns in folk, pop and rock styles, rudimentary music theory, note-reading, tablature, rhythmic skills, basic finger-picking patterns, various left-hand techniques, and some forms of melodic/harmonic styles of guitar playing. The emphasis in the course is on ensemble playing. Guitars will not be provided for classroom use. *No previous musical experience is required*

MUSIC 10: CONCERT CHOIR (*Offered as a 9th course before regular classes at 7:30am*)

This course will be a continuation of Choir 9, with increased emphasis on performance and the development of musical skills. Repertoire will be more challenging and will provide the opportunity for students to work in small ensembles and in solo activities. As with all music activities, members of this class should expect that part of their learning situation will involve a commitment to regular home practice and extra-curricular activities. Students will be required to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 10: CHAMBER CHOIR (*Offered as a 9th course*)

Students enrolling in this course should have completed or are currently enrolled in Junior Concert Choir Students should consult with the choir teacher at their school for specific admission requirements.

MUSIC 10: CONCERT BAND

This course is a continuation of Band 9 with appropriate changes in level of repertoire, knowledge and skills. Students will begin to do work in small ensemble format as well as solo work, if desired. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 10: JAZZ BAND (*Offered as a 9th course after school*)

Students will gain a general knowledge of jazz styles and interpretation, as well as the techniques and rhythms unique to jazz. Students will learn fundamental jazz improvisation skills. Instruments are: trumpet, trombone, saxophone (alto, tenor, bari) and rhythm section (piano, bass, drums, and guitar). All Jazz Band students must be registered in Concert Band as well. Please see your music teacher if you are interested in this course.

MUSIC 11: GUITAR (Acoustic)

Students will learn basic chord patterns in folk, pop and rock styles, rudimentary music theory, note-reading, tablature, rhythmic skills, basic finger-picking patterns, various left-hand techniques, and some forms of melodic/harmonic styles of guitar playing. The emphasis in the course is on ensemble playing. By the end of the course, students should be reading and playing at approximately the level of Grade One Royal Conservatory guitar. Guitars will not be provided for classroom use. Some students who wish to can spend some of their class time learning about the compositional process for different styles of electronic music. This portion of the course will utilize computer/synthesizer equipment and appropriate software. Student compositions may be performed in public concerts.

MUSIC 11/12: CONCERT CHOIR (*Offered as a 9th course before regular classes at 7:30am*)

Students in this course will explore very challenging and sophisticated vocal material, and will begin to learn basic choral arranging skills for in-class projects. Small ensemble work will be made available to anyone who wishes to pursue this option more fully and solo opportunities will be readily available. Students will also have the opportunity to learn basic conducting skills. As with all music activities, members of this class should expect that part of their learning situation would involve a commitment to regular home practice and extra-curricular activities. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 11/12: CHAMBER CHOIR (*Offered as a 9th course*)

Students enrolling in this course should have completed or are currently enrolled in Junior Concert Choir Students should consult with the choir teacher at their school for specific admission requirements.

MUSIC 11: CONCERT BAND (*Offered as a 9th course before regular classes at 7:30am*)

In this course, students will continue their exploration of music repertoire, instrumental performance technique and small ensemble/solo work in addition to more advanced studies in theory and music history related to the repertoire studied. Students will also have the opportunity to do arrangements for ensembles and to study conducting. Students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 11: JAZZ BAND (*Offered as a 9th course after school*)

This course will be an extension of Jazz Band 10 with students continuing to develop improvisational skills, learning basic arranging skills, and providing leadership within the ensemble. There will also be opportunity for students to do small jazz ensemble groups (duos, trios, quartets, etc.) within the structure of this course. This is a performance-oriented course and all students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations. All Jazz Band students must be registered in Concert Band as well. This is designed to address a very broad interpretation of drawing and painting issues and media. Light and shade, line quality, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, and illusion of depth are drawing issues that can be addressed through a variety of means. Many works of painting, printmaking, and mixed media, as well as abstract, observational, and inventive works, may qualify. The range of marks used to make drawings, the arrangements of those marks, and the materials used to make the marks are endless.

MUSIC 12: GUITAR 12 (Acoustic)

Students will explore an increasingly difficult repertoire of pieces, various finger picking patterns, alternate tunings, scales, modes, and styles of playing. The emphasis in this course is on individual and small-group practice and instruction. By the end of the course, students should be reading and playing at approximately the level of Grade Two Royal Conservatory Guitar. Guitars will not be provided for classroom use. Students will have the option of either beginning or continuing their study of electronic music. Continuing students will have the option of composing and/or arranging music for any of the performing ensembles in the school.

MUSIC 12: CONCERT BAND (*Offered as a 9th course before regular classes at 7:30am*)

Band 12 students will continue the course of studies outlined in Band 11 and will be expected to provide a leadership role within the ensembles. Opportunities for conducting in public will be available to Band 12 students if sufficient skill is acquired. As with all other Band classes, students will be required to attend all scheduled extra-curricular rehearsals and performances as part of the course expectations.

MUSIC 12: JAZZ BAND (*Offered as a 9th course after school*)

Jazz Band 12 provides an opportunity to develop jazz soloing techniques and to play in small ensembles. Students will be expected to take on a leadership role both musically and as group members. As with all music ensembles, students will be required to take part in all extra-curricular rehearsals and performances. All Jazz Band students must be registered in Concert Band as well.

APPLICATIONS OF LEADERSHIP MUSIC 11/12

This course is for the mature, dedicated music student who wishes to expand their own leadership skills while working with younger musicians to improve their instrumental, vocal, and music composition abilities. Students must get permission from their music teacher before registering for this class, and they *must* be registered in at least one other music course.

MUSIC COMPOSITION 11/12

This course is a unique music composition class at Alpha, with a focus on traditional methods of composition, as well as the use of technology. This course is intended for students who have some background in a band program or private piano study for at least three years. Students will learn to explore and arrange sound to form compositions for both live instruments and computer generated sounds. Programs in the music lab include Cubase, Sibelius, and Band in a Box, used with synthesizer workstations. Students will also learn to create recordings of their performances and compositions. Music written by students will be performed for the class or in the program's Fall and Spring concerts. Students who enjoy a challenge, a sense of accomplishment and are self-motivated will find this course fun and rewarding.