INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Performing Arts Department Handbook

Academic Year: 2025-2026

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1. Introduction

The performing arts, including band, orchestra, choir, and theater are gifts from God that we are privileged to enjoy. Engaging in these arts allows us to bring glory to God through our creativity and expression. Whether making music with instruments, lifting our voices in song, or bringing stories to life on stage, we can use our talents to worship, praise, and give thanks to God. Participating in the performing arts is an act of offering and worship, and through our performances, we can also serve and enrich our community. By working hard to develop the talents and skills that God has given us, we bring glory to Him. Whether in band, choir, or theater classes at ICS, dedicating ourselves to excellence in our craft is a powerful way to praise and honor God.

2. Department Vision and Mission

Vision:
At ICS, our effective and challenging curriculum in the performing arts provides students with an opportunity to identify, develop, and celebrate their God-given abilities as well as offer an avenue for expressing creativity, beauty, and connecting with God.

Mission:
The ICS Performing Arts seeks to develop student skills both in and out of the classroom and the department places equal value on the learning process and performance. Our classes and co-curricular activities are open to all students who want to develop a life-long appreciation of music and explore their potential as musicians.

3. ICS Teaching & Learning Philosophy

ICS Standards

ICS has a standards-based approach to education. This means we have clear and objective targets (standards) for learning in every subject, at every grade level. In the liberal arts (Math, Science and the Humanities) we emphasise the importance of knowledge, which is the basis for much of what we call 'skills'. In the creative arts (Music, Art and Drama) we emphasise the quality of both technique and interpretation. In Physical Education and Health we develop standards of physical capacity and skill.

Assessing learning of these standards is achieved by the use of proficiency rubrics, which clearly delineate a continuum from 'below standard' to 'approaching standard' to 'meeting standard' to 'exceeding standard'. Both formative and summative assessments are appropriate to the subject-specific standards. Theology is the "Queen of the Sciences', and so the Bible has the pre-eminent place in our curriculum, training students in a Biblical worldview and understanding of the 'whole counsel of God'.

ICS Teaching & Learning Principles

- The Bible is our final authority in all matters of faith and conduct
- We use evidence-based practice founded on good cognitive science
- Optimal learning is knowledge-based and teacher-directed
- The teaching cycle: explicit instruction, modelling, practice, feedback
- The essence of a liberal arts education is deep reading, thinking, writing and discussion, in pursuit of goodness, truth and beauty, through Socratic dialogue
- We prioritise the known benefits of physical reading and handwriting
- We prepare students to operate effectively in a dual-modal society: departmental handbooks outline where digital technology is effective in enhancing learning, and our curriculum policy details education in digital literacy
- ICS partners with parents in mitigating the harms associated with screen-based childhood and learning, including our policies on homework and device-use

Assessment

Formative assessment refers to a variety of methods teachers use to gather evidence of students' academic progress over time. Formative feedback to students aims to help students understand what to aim for and how to achieve that.

Summative assessments are high-stakes assessments that are used to evaluate students' proficiency against ICS Standards in a particular unit, semester, or course.

4. Performing Arts Department Curriculum Links

- **Curriculum Introduction**

The performing arts utilises its curriculum to identify and develop the skills of our students with the goal to develop them into lifelong learners who glorify God.   In our band, choral, and strings ensembles students are placed with similarly skilled students as they develop their skills. In our theater arts and theater technology classes, students with all levels of experience collaborate together as they develop their skills.

While most of the classes have no prerequisites, there are several that require students to audition because they require a level of experience to be successful.

- **Middle School**

Content

- Choir
    - Con Brio Choir Scope and Sequence
    - Jubilate Choir Scope and Sequence
    - Presto Choir Scope and Sequence
    - Symphonic Choir Scope and Sequence

- Band
    - Intrada Band Scope and Sequence
    - Rondo Band Scope and Sequence
    - Toccata Band Scope and Sequence
    - Sinfonia Band Scope and Sequence

- Strings
    - MS Chamber Strings Ensemble Scope and Sequence
    - MS Advanced Strings Ensemble Scope and Sequence

- Theatre
    - Theatre and Public Speaking: Grade 7 (S2) Scope and Sequence
    - Theater and Public Speaking: Grade 8 (S1) Scope and Sequence

High School

*indicates P block performance classes that are full year courses.

- Choir
    - ICS Voices*
    - ICS Singers*
    - ICS Glee*

- Band
    - HS Show Band*
    - HS Concert Band*

- Strings
    - HS Chamber Strings*

- General Music
    - Guitar 1
    - Guitar 2
    - Class Piano 1
    - Class Piano 2
    - Digital Music

- Music Theory
    - Music Theory
    - AP Music Theory

- Theater
    - Theater Arts: Production (Semester 1)
    - Theater Arts (Semester 2)
    - Theater Technology (A one semester class offered both semesters)
    - Stagecraft (A one semester class offered both semesters)

- **Performing Arts Pathways Grade 6 - Grade 12**

Secondary Course Pathways - High School Course Guide

Performing Arts Course Pathways

Grade 9 - 12			Grade 10 - 12

Theatre Arts: Production
Theatre Arts
Theatre Technology 1
Stagecraft

Theatre Technology 2

ICS Voices	Show Band	Class Guitar 1 & 2	Music Theory
ICS Singers	Concert Band	Class Piano 1 & 2	AP Music Theory
ICS Glee	Chamber Strings Ensemble	Digital Music	

2 credits total from Fine Arts and/or Performing Arts are required for graduation

5. School & Department Policies

- **General Classroom Practice**

Teachers are responsible for communicating Unit Rubrics at the beginning of every Unit of Study to students and parents as well as feedback on every assessment against the rubric.

- **Homework Policy**

We adhere to the ICS Homework Policy

- **Technology Policy**

We adhere to the ICS Technology Policy

- **Assessment Policy**

We adhere to the ICS Secondary Assessment Policy

- **Health and Safety**

Risk Assessments: Regular assessments to ensure a safe learning environment.
All such guidelines are maintained in the ICS Safety and Security Policy

6. Co-curricular Clubs, Trips and Activities

- **Clubs**
    - Middle School Jazz Band
    - Middle School Madrigals
    - Middle School Chimes
    - Middle School Drama Production
    - High School Boy's Ensemble
    - Impromptu
    - Middle School Tech Team
    - High School Tech Team
    - High School Chimes
    - Tri M Music Honor Society

- **Honors Ensembles**
    - High School Jazz Band
    - High School Symphony Orchestra
    - High School Madrigals

- **Trips**
    - ACSC Honor Band (every 2 years)
    - ACSC Honor Orchestra (every 2 years)
    - ACSC Honor Choir (every 2 years)
    - AMIS Honor Band (by external competitive audition)
    - AMIS Honor Orchestra (by external competitive audition)
    - Disney Public Performance Experience

- **Activities**
    - MS Musical - Semester 2
    - Community Singing
    - Honors Recital (Fall and Spring)
    - International Schools Middle School Music Festival (Band and Choir)
    - AMIS Honor Band
    - AMIS Honor Orchestra
    - ACSC Honor Band
    - ACSC Honor Orchestra
    - ACSC Honor Choir
    - Jazz Cafe (alternate years from ACSC Band/Orchestra)