

About the School

East High School

Denver, CO

Type:

Urban/Comprehensive

Grades:

9-12

Students:

1,900

Very mixed socio-economic status

Arts Requirement:

None

About the Music Program

Faculty:

2 full-time (1 vocal and 1 instrumental)

Students:

142

Facilities:

Above Average in the Area

- 2 classrooms (instrumental and vocal)
- School auditorium

Required Courses:

None

Elective Vocal Music Courses:

Beginning Choir, Men's Ensemble, Seraphim, Honor Choir, Angelaires, Beginning Music Theory, AP Music Theory, and Voice

About the Featured Classes

Men's Ensemble:

This beginning level ensemble for boys focuses on voice training and rudimentary music reading skills.

Audition:

None

Preparations/Prerequisites:

Any student may choose to take this course. Students only need to demonstrate the ability to match pitch (hear a note and sing it back accurately).

Typical Subsequent Course:

Honor Choir

Student Motivation:

Mixed. Some students will become motivated to stay in the choir program.

Angelaires:

Students receive accelerated and demanding instruction in vocal technique and performance, music theory, music appreciation, ear-training, vocal improvisation, and music history, as well as opportunities to use these advanced musical skills in a vocal ensemble setting.

This is a high-level "X" class, which means that students receive a higher grade point: A=5.2 instead of 4.0.

Audition Requirements:

Students must demonstrate music reading ability, vocal ability, aural skill, and part-singing ability. Rehearsal discipline, school attendance, and dedication to vocal music (particularly in other ensembles) are also examined.

Student Motivation:

High. Most students are motivated by their love of music or by the quality of the music that the Angelaires make.

In the Teacher's Words

What does solfege mean?

Solfege is a series of syllables that are used by singers to identify and to sing the pitches of a scale (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do). The word can also refer to general singing and ear-training instruction.

Why do the Angelaires use microphones in class?

Most vocal jazz groups use microphones because they perform with amplified instruments (bass, piano, and drums). Microphones are used in class to acclimate the students to the sound of amplified voices.