

Not Your Hit Parade:
A History of American Radio
Mr. Goodman

August 1, 1981, 12:01 a.m., MTV announced the launch of a new era with the showing of its first music video, the appropriately titled ***Video Killed the Radio Star*** by the English band The Buggles. MTV meant well, but it just wasn't so. And it *isn't* so. Radio today is just as vital as when it was first introduced to America as "wireless telegraphy" in 1899. Radio has helped define our relationship with music as well as with one another, and this class will explore the when-what-how-and-why of this seemingly simple technology. In the car, on your phone, in the dentist's waiting room or in TD's office, Radio is always there in one form or another, and yet we rarely ask the most obvious question: **where does it come from?** (Hint: it's all about vibrations and waves)

We'll answer that question in this class, as well as the obvious follow up: **where is it going?** How is the internet changing the concept of Radio, and how have itunes, Sirius and Spotify changed the landscape? We'll also listen to and study a lot of radio shows and programs (Sinatra's in particular); listen to some compelling sports broadcasts; dissect a few classic one-offs, such as Orson Welles's master performance of "War of the Worlds". Radio is rooted in the act of **listening**, so that will be a primary activity.

The other primary activity in this class will be writing, producing and performing our own weekly **Radio Show!** Starting in October, once a week, we will be traveling up the street to WVOX (1460 AM), where we will broadcast a live 30 minute radio show. This will be right after school at 3:00, most likely on Tuesdays, so keep that in mind when you sign up for this class. This is an incredible opportunity to experience Radio firsthand and to feel the immediacy of live broadcasting. (And to shine and sing and perform, and maybe ham it up a bit too.) WVOX has been the voice of Westchester for over 50 years, and currently boasts a listening audience of several million people (this includes live streaming along with its broadcasting on sister station WVIP (93.5 FM) Make no mistake, you will be heard!

No past Radio experience is required for this class, but a good set of ears is expected, as well as an imagination and a desire to create and be part of an unique aural experience. Class size will be limited.