

UPPER SCHOOL COURSES

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art Exploratory (0.5 Credits or 1.0 Credits)

This course is a basic introductory class that exposes students to a variety of media for lessons in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, and printmaking. A brief study of master works and architecture will be incorporated into the class.

Prerequisite: Open to all students.

Advanced Art: Wet Medium (0.5 Credits)

Advanced level art classes are designed to strengthen the students' ability to work independently; to generate original art with an understanding of artistic integrity; to develop mastery in skills of drawing fundamentals; and to apply design principles. Students may be required to prepare for some assignments outside of class. Writing assignments will parallel the art production and at least one major museum visit will be offered. Wet Medium will focus on the following techniques: watercolor, acrylic, printmaking and clay

Prerequisite: Art Exploratory and/or teacher approval.

Advanced Art: Dry Medium (0.5 Credits)

Advanced level studio classes are designed to strengthen the students' ability to work independently; to generate original art with an understanding of artistic integrity; to develop mastery in skills of drawing fundamentals; and to apply design principles. Students may be required to prepare for some assignments outside of class. Writing assignments will parallel the art production and at least one major museum visit will be offered. Dry Medium will focus on the following techniques: creating depth, perspective, and value through line.

Prerequisite: Art Exploratory and/or teacher approval.

Advanced Portfolio Art (1.0 Credits)

Students will pursue a theme and complete pieces for a portfolio in a variety of mediums. Students need to be able to work independently and to set goals and complete work in a timely manner. Homework and written work will be expected.

Prerequisite: Two classes of US visual art and teacher approval.

Special Conditions: Students may be required to purchase specialized materials to complete individual projects, etc.

Studio Art Honors (1.0 Credits)

Students will research and develop a deeper understanding and mastery of two chosen mediums. Students will practice critical analysis along with innovative art-making processes. They will

learn to emphasize the process of creating as ongoing and develop critical decision making skills. Visual elements and independent thinking will contribute to developing each student's own style.

Prerequisite: Art Exploratory, Advanced Art Dry or Advanced Art Wet and teacher approval

Special Conditions: Students may be required to purchase specialized materials to complete individual projects, etc.

Drama (0.5 Credits)

Drama provides a safe forum to explore the conditions affecting our lives. Theater allows us to find the creative self and express that self to the world. This class is for anyone who loves any aspect of theater & wants to learn more, but is also for someone who would like to develop more confidence and the ability to speak well. Speaking and communicating well comes with practice and self-awareness. Good communication also includes non-verbal signals. Actors study all of these elements. Drama class provides the opportunity to develop in these areas for actors, but non-actors benefit too.

Daily practices may include: Improvisation, Scene Study, Script analysis, Voice & Diction, Theater History, Mechanics of Production & Staging, Playwriting & Directing.

This class is open to all students, provided they are willing to participate.

Choir

Choir is a performance-based group in which classes are designed to give students knowledge in vocal technique, music reading, and performance practice. A variety of music genres will be performed and may include world music, musical theatre, folk, contemporary pop, and classical. There will be an emphasis placed on show choir selections and include choreography. During the fall semester, students perform at the Houston Academy Fall Showcase and Winter Concert, and they compete in the Cultural Arts Center Choral & Theatre Festival. During the spring semester, students put together a spring show for the Spring Concert. This class is open to all students who wish to sing with others and make an impact on their community through music. No prior experience is required. Anyone enrolled in choir may also audition for the Alabama All-State Honor Choir.

Prerequisite: Open to all students, but an initial assessment of abilities by the director is necessary.

Text: No Text is required.

Special Conditions: Various course fees may be required including a small dress alteration fee.

Band

The Band is a performance-based ensemble. Students will receive group instruction on standard band instruments. Students must obtain their own instrument from the director's approved list

instruments. There are a limited number of school instruments available for rent from the school. During the first semester, students are expected to attend a scheduled camp prior to the first day of school and will play at all football games, and will end the semester with a Christmas concert. During the second semester the band will prepare to perform at the Alabama Music Performance Assessment Festival and will present a spring concert. Students will also be eligible to participate in various individual events to include All State Festival, Solo and Ensemble Festival, and various collegiate honor bands. Other performances may be scheduled throughout the school year.

Prerequisite: Beginning Band. An initial assessment of abilities by the director is also necessary.

Text: Various school owned method books and pieces of music will be provided for use.

Special Conditions: Various course fees will be required. Students must buy their own instruments or may rent them from the school (limited supply available).

AP Music Theory (1.0 Credits)

AP Music Theory is intended as an in-depth course of study for students who are interested in the theory of music. Through the course, students will improve their music skills in the reading, composition, and the interpretation of music. Students will have the possibility of earning college credit through the Advanced Placement Music Theory exam.

Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Texts: *Music in Theory and Practice vol. 1, 8th ed.* (ISBN-13: 978-0073101873)

Workbook, Volume 1 to accompany Music in Theory and Practice vol. 1, 8th ed. (ISBN-13: 978-0077294236)

Music for Sight-Singing, 8th ed. (ISBN-13: 978-0205760084)

Software: Free Download of Musescore: www.musescore.org/en

Music Composition Honors I (1.0 Credits or 0.5 Credits)

Music Composition I is a project based course of study designed to provide students with an introduction and foundation to the creative process of music composition for instrumental and vocal ensembles (lyrics, rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure). Students will explore and compose music in several distinct styles, demonstrating creativity and a broader scope of the theoretical aspects of music composition through programs such as Hookpad+, Finale Notation Software, Musescore, and GarageBand.

Prerequisite: AP Music Theory, and Teacher Approval

Text: All material needed will be provided by the teacher.

Software: Purchase of Hookpad+ subscription: www.hooktheory.com/hookpad/plus
Free Download of Musescore: www.musescore.org/en

Music Composition Honors II (1.0 Credits or 0.5 Credits)

Music Composition II is a project-based course of study designed to allow students to further use the skills learned in Music Composition I. Students will have more freedom of choice when completing the projects in this course. Students will continue to explore and compose music in several distinct styles, demonstrating creativity and a broader scope of the theoretical aspects of music composition through programs such as Hookpad+, Musescore, Finale Notation Software and Garageband.

Prerequisites: Music Composition I and Teacher Recommendation.

Text: All material needed will be provided by the teacher.

Software: Purchase of Hookpad+ subscription: www.hooktheory.com/hookpad/plus
Free Download of Musescore: www.musescore.org/en

PLEASE NOTE: Some Technology courses meet both Technology and Fine Arts Requirements (Print Design and Digital Media).