

FINE ARTS

VISUAL ARTS

STUDIO IN ART

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: None

Credit: 1

This full year course is designed to introduce students to the elements and principles of art, as well as the scope and limitations of the basic materials we use. Studio Art is the foundation course upon which other more advanced electives are based. The class is designed to provide experiences in a variety of media, and an understanding of the creative process. Various projects include, but are not limited to: charcoal still-life drawing, plaster, abstract painting, pastel studies, portraiture, sculpture, clay and printmaking. Concepts covered are: drawing and observational skills, creative problem-solving, color theory, painting techniques, three-dimensional sculpture, multi-cultural art, and art historical movements. This class is required for art and fine arts sequences and fulfills the 1 unit high school arts credit requirement.

DRAWING AND PAINTING I

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Studio Art

Credit: .5

In this half year course, a variety of drawing media (pencil, charcoal, marker, ink, crayon, etc.) and painting materials (watercolor, tempura, acrylic, oil, mixed media, etc.) will be used to explore the figure, still-life, landscape, etc., as well as more experimental, less traditional, approaches to art. Students will study major works of artists and movements in art and learn about art as a career. At the end of the course, they will be able to: understand the effects of light, contour line, proportion and means, value, linear and aerial perspective in creating an illusion of three dimensional spaces, apply knowledge of composition through the use of positive and negative space, apply knowledge of facial proportion and means of expression through self portraiture. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

DRAWING AND PAINTING II

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Drawing & Painting

Credit: .5

Building on the concepts learned in Drawing and Painting I, this course is an advanced elective concentrating on the materials and techniques in drawing and painting. The course focuses on life drawing, figure drawing, and portraiture, using long-term projects and in-depth study of subjects and materials. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

SCULPTURE

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: None

Credit: .5

This is an advanced course designed to introduce the student to a variety of sculptural activities and concepts such as creating a mold, carving, modeling, mass vs. space, mobiles, armatures, bas-relief, sculpture in the round, etc. Introduction to major concepts of aesthetics will be made by critiquing the students' works and those of major artists and cultures. The history of sculpture and related design concepts will be touched on briefly during class lectures and critiques. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

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SCULPTURE II

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Sculpture I and permission of instructor

Credit: .5

This half year course is for students who wish to further explore the creative possibilities of personal expression through sculpture. Advanced studio problems will allow create solutions in a choice of materials including: clay, plaster, cement, wood, wire, found objects and other materials. Students will research contemporary sculptors and create a work directly influenced by a chosen artist or create a site-specific work of art. Sculptors, past and present, and contemporary trends in three-dimensional works of art will be researched and discussed. Topics also include viewing local sculpture exhibitions and possible sculptor's studio visit. Regular sketchbook and internet assignments will be given. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

STUDIO IN CERAMICS

Grades 10-12

Prereq: None

Studio in Ceramics is a one-semester Art Elective with no prerequisite. Students will create works using traditional hand-building techniques such as slab and coil, as well as learn to use a potter's wheel. Projects will include both utilitarian (functional pottery, like a vase or a bowl) with non-utilitarian works (sculptures, such as animals or human head and figure). From realism to abstraction, the student will explore the limitless possibilities of the medium of clay. A variety of glazing and finishing techniques will also be introduced.

GRAPHIC DESIGN I

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: None

Credit: .5

In this course, students will be introduced to the many skills and techniques used in the world of commercial art. A wide range of media, including digital media, will be used to create logos, package designs, commercial illustrations, etc., all with the purpose of selling products in newspapers, magazines, and the like. Students will experience problem-solving for specific assignments in the graphic arts such as CD covers or promotional brochures as final projects. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

GRAPHIC DESIGN II

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Graphic Design I and permission of instructor

Credit: .5

This half year course is for students who wish to study and explore graphic design in further depth. Through the further honing of their design skills and style, students will have the opportunity to develop a body of work in one specific area of the broad graphic design field. Possible areas include: typography, logos and corporate identity, posters, advertisements, package design publishing (books, magazines, newspaper) and greeting card line. Pioneers of the graphic design industry and contemporary design innovators will be researched and discussed. Topics also include career exploration in the world of graphic design and possible group project experience of working as part of a design team. Regular sketch book and internet assignments will be given. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

DIGITAL ARTIST

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: None

Digital Artist is a half-year Art Elective with no prerequisite. Students will learn to use the computer, digital camera and scanner to create works of art. No previous computer experience is necessary.

This course is designed for students who wish to explore contemporary trends in art that fuse traditional art media with digital media. Experimentation and exploration will be encouraged.

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PORTFOLIO PREPARATION

Grades: 11-12

Prereq: Studio Art

Credit: .5

May be repeated for credit more than once.

This course is designed to prepare college-bound art students for collegiate application and portfolio review by researching college art programs, preparing applications and essays, and filling gaps in their portfolios. The class will include field trips to local art programs, weekly sketchbook assignments, advanced drawing, painting, design or sculpture assignments, and in-class critiques and portfolio reviews. This course will also cover matting, and presentation of finished works, art history research and project tie-ins, and out of class work such as figure drawing at the Junior College of Albany. The course culminates in a show of student work in a public venue. This class is an elective for an art or fine arts sequence.

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MUSIC

CONCERT BAND

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: Grade 8 Band

Level 3-4 Skills

Credit: .5

Concert Band is open to all high school students in grades 9-12 who have participated in the instrumental music program through the eighth grade. The group plays a wide variety of challenging music from classical transcriptions to Broadway Medleys. Students are required to attend lessons once a cycle and all scheduled concerts. This course can be applied towards a Music or Fine Arts sequence.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Concert Band and permission of instructor

Credit: .5

Wind Ensemble is a select performing group that performs advanced high school band literature of many different musical styles. Student in grades 10-12 are selected for this group based upon their musical achievement on their instrument (lesson achievement, NYSSMA scores, performance evaluations, attitude, ensemble balance etc.) as determined by the high school band teachers. Wind Ensemble meets every other day for a full period and students are required to attend lessons once a cycle and all scheduled concerts. This course can be applied towards a Music or Fine Arts Sequence.

CHORUS

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: None

Credit: .5

Chorus meets every other day for a full period. Students will learn a variety of music styles with an emphasis on good vocal techniques and sight reading skills. Students who are not in any other performing group will be scheduled for a lesson once a cycle. Students are required to attend all concerts scheduled. This course can be applied toward a Music or Fine Arts sequence.

MUSIC IN OUR LIVES

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: None

Credit: 1

This one- year course is designed to meet the requirement for one unit of high school Arts credit. Students will be exposed to many different musical styles (pop, rock, jazz, rhythm and blues, classical, non-Western, etc.), learning the fundamentals of music composition, and learning about various types of careers in the music field. The course will include units on keyboarding (piano) and guitar. Students will produce a special interest project by the conclusion of the class. This course can be applied toward a Music or Fine Arts sequence.

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MUSIC THEORY I

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: Previous Music Experience

Credit: 1

This elective course deals with the elements of musical structure. It is designed for those students who may wish to pursue a sequence in music, for those who wish to develop insights into the structural content of music, or, for those who wish to acquire a more thorough awareness of music through the theoretical principles which underlie it. Basic content includes: scales and key signatures, rhythmic studies, melodic and harmonic organization, form and style, sight singing, dictation, and rudimentary keyboard skills. The class integrates the use of music technology for composition and aural skills development. This course is required for a Music sequence and can also be applied toward a Fine Arts sequence.

MUSIC THEORY II

Grades: 10-12

Prereq: Music Theory I

Credit: 1

This full year, upper level course is a continuation of the course content presented in Music Theory I with an emphasis on composing and evaluating the structures of music. Four part harmony and advanced classical chord structures are emphasized at this level. This course can be applied toward a Music or Fine Arts sequence.

APPLIED MUSIC CREDIT

Grades: 10 - 12

Prereq: Approval of music staff and an accredited private instructor

Credit: .5

Applied Music Credit is based on the New York State plan to award one half credit of study for participation in advanced private study of classical music on a musical instrument (including voice). Credit for such participation shall be upon the recommendation of the student's music teacher, shall be approved by the District Music Coordinator and High School Principal, and shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of the school music program. Students are to apply for this program at the beginning of the school year, log weekly practicing (5 hours per week required), receive quarterly evaluations from private instructors, and are to perform in an end of the year recital and/or participate in a NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble event in the spring.

INTRODUCTION TO JAZZ IMPROVISATION AND THEORY

Grades: 9-12

Prereq: High school students who play an instrument at an intermediate to advanced level. Students interested in the course should be advised to see the instructor before enrolling.

Credit .5

This course will focus on the art of jazz improvisation. Students will learn the techniques and concepts necessary to learn to improvise over chord changes found in jazz and other forms of popular music. This will be a performance-based class where students will immediately take the concepts learned and apply them to their instruments. The course will also incorporate historical, cultural, and theoretical aspects of jazz and contemporary music.