

# Arts@Friends

## MUSIC ENSEMBLES

### Concert Chorale

is open to students in the Upper School who have an interest in singing. In a short audition, students must be able to match pitch and sing an excerpt from a familiar song of the student's choice. The Chorale performs at least two major concerts over the course of the school year. The concert repertoire is a diverse one, featuring music from all style periods and choral genres.

### Chamber Choir

is a group of 20-30 singers selected from the larger Concert Chorale. Rehearsal concentrates on a cappella singing. Members of Chamber Choir work with students who are equally motivated in music. Participants are chosen in an audition that requires them to sing individually and to sight-read. The group performs several times a year, both on and off campus. Repertoire varies from Renaissance madrigals to jazz arrangements. Focus is on balance and blend in small group singing.

### Wind Ensemble

consists of the standard Concert Band instrumentation (woodwinds, brass, and percussion). All students in Grades 9-12 who can read music and play beyond the elementary level are encouraged to participate. Repertoire ranges from the Renaissance to today, including transcriptions of the masterworks. The ensemble performs in several major concerts on and off campus during the year.

### Jazz Ensemble



composed of saxophones, trumpets, low brass and rhythm section, is open to students in grades 9-12 interested in playing jazz. Due to the nature of the instrumentation, enrollment is limited. Students may be required to audition for the director in the fall. Members of Jazz Ensemble must also be concurrently

enrolled in Wind Ensemble or String Orchestra. The group plays a wide variety of jazz styles, with emphasis on jazz phrasing, ensemble skills, and improvisation. The group performs in several major concerts during the year, on and off campus.

### String Orchestra

is open to string players, grades 9-12, who play beyond the elementary level. Traditional string orchestra instrumentation is employed (violin, viola, cello, string bass). The orchestra performs in several major concerts each year with emphasis on traditional string orchestra repertoire.

### Jazz Rhythm Lab

is designed for rhythm section players (guitar, piano, bass, drums) who are not members of Jazz Ensemble. The class focuses on the basics of rhythm section playing and each individual's unique responsibility in the ensemble.

## STUDENT-RUN GROUPS



Several student-run groups rehearse outside of the school day. Two a cappella vocal ensembles, one all-men, known as the *Quaketonas*, and one all-women, the *Pleiades*, consisting of 6 to 12 singers each, perform "lighter" repertoire, with an emphasis on popular music. The third group, the *Constellations*, is a 10-member co-ed instrumental ensemble whose repertoire includes a wide range of musical genres, from jazz, to funk, to rock. Since the groups are student-led, auditions are announced and run by the students themselves.

## DRAMA/THEATER

### Fall Play

Typically performed on a weekend in early November, the Fall Play is open to all students in the Upper School. Auditions for roles are held early in September, and rehearsals are generally held after school and some weekends or weeknights. Students also participate behind the scenes, on stage crew, running crew, building sets, handling costumes and props, etc. Previous shows include *Peter and the Starcatcher (2019)*, *Pygmalion (2018)*, *The Crucible (2017)*, *Little Women (2016)*

### Student-Run Play

Usually staged in late January, this annual event is entirely run by students. There is a student director who will choose the play, announce and conduct auditions, and produce the play. Actors, stage crew, set builders, etc., are student volunteers. All students are eligible to participate. Past shows include *Farce of Nature (2019)*, *The Odd Couple (2018)*, *Front Page (2017)*, *Noises Off (2016)*.

### Spring Musical

The annual Spring Musical is a fully-staged Broadway show with pit orchestra, choreography, scenery, lighting, and musical direction. The Musical is a production of the Concert Chorale, and membership in Chorale is necessary to audition for on-stage roles. Past shows include *The Addams Family (2019)*, *Les Miserables (2018)*, *Urinetown (2017)*, *Oklahoma (2016)*.



### Summer Stock

Each summer, the school stages a theatrical production open to Friends School students, alumni, and students from other schools. The rehearsals typically run in the evenings throughout the month of July with the show performed in Forbush Auditorium the last week of July.

### Stagecraft

The objective of this course is to introduce the fundamental elements and principals of technical theater through hands-on learning. The course will include a brief history of theatrical stages and technology. Students will learn the functions of the creative team, production staff and stage crew through an introduction to the basic elements of scenic design, theatrical lighting, sound design, properties building and stage management

### Craft of Acting

In Craft of Acting, students explore the fundamental skills of acting through in-class exercises and performances. Students will focus on using their voice, mind, and body to create a dramatic character. Acting skills are developed through improvisations, scene work, focused theater exercises, team work, monologues and performance. The class also includes: relaxation, warm up exercises, movement, voice, character analysis, and audition work.

### Playwriting

Calling all David Mamets, Lorraine Hansberrys, August Wilsons, William Shakespeares! Come, craft your own plays! In this course, you will learn to write plays by writing plays. We will work on crafting dialogue, conflict, successful plots, and strong, memorable characters. As a class, students will use the writer's workshop method for sharing feedback on our work and for shaping the revision process. Students will read plays, see plays (whenever possible), and (mostly) write plays. Texts may include Tom Stoppard's *Arcadia* and a variety of one acts.



## DANCE

### *Studio Dance 1*

This course is for beginner to advanced beginner level dancers. It will heavily focus on developing and strengthening foundational technique in several styles of dance. An understanding of how basic technical elements cross over many genres of dance will be gained. The history of the covered dance genres and dance composition elements will also be touched on. This creative and active class will conclude with an end-of-year performance. Studio Dance 1 is open to all upper school students. This course can fulfill either a Physical Education "Plus Two" or a Fine Arts elective credit.

### *Studio Dance 2, 3*

This course is for intermediate to advanced level dancers who have a sound understanding of alignment, vocabulary, and core strength. It may be broken into two separate levels depending on enrollment. This class will move at a pace that will challenge the dancers' sequencing abilities and strengthen their understanding of the finer technical details of several styles of dance. Dance history and dance composition elements will also be touched on. This creative and active class will conclude with an end-of-year performance. Students must receive permission from the teacher in order to enroll in this course.

An informal individual audition may be needed for placement purposes. Studio Dance 2/3 is open to all upper school students and can be repeated up to 4 times. This course can fulfill either a Physical Education "Plus Two" or a Fine Arts elective credit.



### *Dance Team*

This team is an auditioned group of dancers that rehearse hip-hop and jazz routines after school during the winter athletic season. They perform half-time dance shows during all home Friday Night Basketball games. Participation in Dance Team satisfies the winter athletic requirement.

### *Dance Showcases*

Twice a year, dance students perform showcases for the community. The fall is typically a student-choreographed show whereas the spring showcase is a full program of pieces choreographed by our dance instructor as well as guest choreographers.

## SPECIAL COURSES

### *Art Major*

This full major course prepares students for a college art program in either professional or liberal arts schools. Art Major is reserved for students in 11th and 12th grade. Interested 10th graders may be considered for Art Major as a 6th major in special circumstances. This class may be repeated with the approval of the instructor. This is a year-long major course that meets 6 out of 10 days per cycle.

### *Music Major*

A student who is a Music Major is enrolled in a performance ensemble plus Music Theory concurrently. When a student is enrolled in both courses simultaneously for a full academic year, he or she may elect to designate it "Music Major." The student will then earn one credit in music for these combined classes. Students receive number grades in each course, which are averaged for the Music Major grade, which is averaged into the student's overall GPA.

## FINE/STUDIO ARTS

### *Semester Electives*

These medium-based, semester courses allow students to explore a range of different media in a studio-based environment. These semester courses meet in "letter blocks" which enable students to explore and cultivate their skills in longer, more intensive ways.

These medium-based, semester courses include:

- Drawing
- Experimental Drawing
- Painting
- Sculptural Forms
- Printmaking
- Art, Technology, Media & Design
- Photo 1
- Photo 2: Journalism
- Photo 2: Alternative Processes
- Photo 3
- Intro to Programming w/ Interactive Art
- Adaptive Design Meets Social Justice
- Web Design and Development

### *Year Long Electives*

Some art electives meet in shorter blocks with less frequency for both semesters in a year-long format:

- Art and Politics
- Studio Art
- Design & Photoshop

### *All School Art Show*

Each spring, the school stages an Art Show for the entire community to enjoy and admire the creative work of our student artists from Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students and their teachers curate the show which is usually staged in the New Gym for a week and is open to the public. The Art Show "opening" on the first afternoon includes a reception, light refreshments, and music performed by one of our student groups.

### *Katz Gallery*

The Katz Gallery, located in the lower level of the Forbush Building, is an exhibition space for art installations and displays. Students as well as faculty exhibit their work in the Katz Gallery and is used as both a display space and teaching space. Additionally, the school invites a visiting artist each year to exhibit, meet with students, teach classes, and give presentations in Collection.

### *Maker Space*

The Upper School Maker Space, located in the lower level of the Upper School Main Building, houses a variety of activities, clubs, classes and contains numerous tools and resources including 3D printers, drill presses, band/table saws, power tools, hand tools, cardboard for prototyping, and a wide range of other tools for



building, tinkering, fabricating, and making. The Maker Space is also home to the Robotics Team, the Kinetic Sculpture Club, the Maker Club, among others.