

EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS

2023-2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DANCE

Beginning Dance Studio

Comstock / Loy Norrix / Kalamazoo Central / Parchment / Galesburg-Augusta

Learn the basic elements and discipline of formal dance technique, exploring classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students gain performance skills, learn how to choreograph their own dances and are required to participate in EFA dance concert at the end of each term. They will have the opportunity to take field trips to see live dance concerts and attend master classes. Students will work with professional dance educators and guest artists.

Intermediate Dance Studio

Kalamazoo Central / Loy Norrix

Intermediate Dance is for students who have completed a beginning EFA class, or have previous dance/movement experience, and are committed to a full year of dance instruction. Students will further their training through in-depth instruction and structured small group student exploration in formal dance technique, classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students will gain performance, composition, and choreographic skills, develop observation, analysis, critical thinking, and reflection skills. Students will prepare and produce a dance presentation each trimester. The class will take field trips to professional dance concerts and work with master guest artists.

LITERARY ARTS

Creative Writing Online

Web based

Through the study of written works in various forms and the regular practice of writing, students will achieve a better understanding of the creative writing process. Additionally, students will collaborate on a few projects, and will read and critique one another's work through small group workshops (held through discussion forums). Students will turn in four major creative writing assignments, regular creative writing exercises, three short reflections, a recording of student performing one of their assignments, and an online portfolio.

Comics, Manga and Graphic Novel Arts

Web based and at High School

Learn to write and produce compelling, artistic and inventive comics or manga, and Graphic Novels. Research the history of comics, study the elements of story, plot, and character development, and the productive use of imagery, layout, and composition. Work individually and collaboratively on projects and develop projects through manipulation and editing of found media and open source graphics.

MEDIA ARTS

Film and Video Arts

Kalamazoo Central and Vicksburg High Schools

Film & Video Arts introduces students to the creation and study of time-based media in video and film. They work with the latest digital technology in creating a variety of works that help them mold and define their own personal visual style for innovative, artistic communication.

Advanced Video Arts Studio

Kalamazoo Central and Vicksburg High School

AVAS is a project-based video class for 9-12 grade students who have already taken at least one semester of a video or TV production class. The class will concentrate on individual student films that will be used for portfolio work and entered into video competitions. Students will learn about lighting, sound, directing and advanced filming and editing techniques.

3D Computer Animation and Game Design

Epic Center Public Media Network

Introduction to the technical and creative fundamentals of 3D Animation software. Students will learn core concepts such as modeling, mapping, story board/scripting, and rendering. Students will create original characters and environment designs, animate characters in a game landscape, and design storyboards using gaming logic and strategies.

KVCC Media Arts

Kalamazoo Valley Community College – Center for New Media - EFA/KVCC Dual Enrolled Program

Fall Semester: ANM 120: Creative Business Standards, MF and ANM 100 Adobe Creative Suite

Winter Semester: ANM 143 Adobe Illustrator, MF and ANM 142 Adobe Photoshop, TWR

Create artworks using computers as tools and learn how art communicates emotions and ideas. Projects include digital photograph manipulation, art for the Internet, stereo 3D images, digital painting, and combining traditional media with new technologies.

Digital StudioArt

Web based and Epic Center Public Media Network

This class will introduce the basics of drawing and painting using digital means, in the process also giving them an introduction to the basics of digital imaging using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. The course is built around the core elements of visual art, such as line, shape, value, and color with an additional emphasis on learning and using the tools of imaging software.

Digital PhotoArt

Web based and Epic Center Public Media Network

This class will introduce, enhance and refine students' ability to express themselves with the aid of digital cameras. Students will learn proper photographic technique, computer enhancement of photos, printing and professional presentation techniques. Students will have many assignments ranging from core photography fundamentals to immersive pieces of personal expression. They will leave class with the beginnings of a portfolio and knowledge to continue and expand their work in the future.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Exploration: Wednesday Evenings. One Semester.

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Explore creating sculpture, photography, jewelry, painting and more at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

Work alongside practicing professional artists as they share their knowledge and expertise in art making.

Advanced Visual Arts Studio: School Day. Full-year.

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

Deepen your creativity and visual arts skills at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Take advantage of the professional facilities, equipment, and master guest artists. This studio class offers advanced study in sculpture, oil painting, jewelry, photography, welding, printmaking, ceramics, and more. Develop a Visual Arts Portfolio and learn presentation skills to apply for college scholarships and student art shows.

THEATRE and PERFORMING ARTS

Advanced Musical Theatre

Portage Northern High School

Using a workshop approach, students will experience an in-depth study of musical theatre to enhance their appreciation of the genre and improve their practical performance skills in acting, vocal and dance performance. Mentored by theatre, vocal and dance educators and guest artists, students will explore, perform, and critique various aspects of musical theatre from the past to the present. Emphasis will be placed on creative and innovative approaches to performing works.

Theatre Improv and Scriptwriting

Comstock and Climax-Scotts High Schools

Through in-depth study and practice students will learn the basics of improvisation, writing, directing and acting for the stage, as well as integrating image and music into their own theatrical performances. Students work with practicing artists exploring different forms of theatre, from classical to contemporary. These experiences will inform the development of each student's distinct writing style. Students will participate in a minimum of two class performances and visit area theatres to experience a variety of stage productions.

Hip Hop 180

Loy Norrix High School

Activate your voice and amplify your vision through the power of performance rap/poetry, music, and movement. Dig into the history of Hip Hop culture and social justice leadership to build skills, decipher contexts, and determine truths. Then merge your artistic and activist knowledge and techniques to enact meaningful, positive social change in y(our) community.