

# Arts: Theatre & Dance

The Arts curriculum balances performance and practice with careful academic study and analysis. Whether in Music, Theatre & Dance, or Visual Arts, students are challenged to use their intellectual, emotional, and physical intelligence to create meaningful work, exhibitions, and performances. Instructors encourage students to take the risks necessary to explore, create, and grow as artists, while providing them with a framework for understanding how their endeavors relate to the larger artistic world.

## Graduation Requirement:

**A total of two credits in grades 9 through 12. All students must take at least one half credit in studio/performance, and at least one half credit in appreciation in any arts discipline.**

## Theatre & Dance (ARTD) Courses Offered in 2023-24

### 200-level

- ☐ Acting (ARTD 210)
- ☐ Stagecraft in School - Period H Crew (ARTD 211)
- ☐ Dance Workshop (ARTD 212 / PHED 212)
- ☐ Yoga & Meditation (ARTD 213/PHED 213)
- ☐ Dance in Historical and Cultural Perspective (ARTD 230)
- ☐ History of American Musical Theatre (ARTD 231)
- ☐ Performance in Major Theatre & Dance Productions (1/3 credit)
- ☐ Stagecraft Afterschool (1/4 credit)

### 300-level

- ☐ Acting for the Camera (ARTD 310)
- ☐ Playwriting and Production (ARTD 311)
- ☐ Introduction to Design & Technical Theatre (ARTD 312)
- ☐ Dance Performance (ARTD 313 / PHED 313)

### 400-level

- ☐ Musical Theatre Performance (ARTD 410)
- ☐ Applied Design & Technical Theatre (ARTD 412)

## Courses Not Offered in 2023-24

- ☐ Theatre Ensemble Seminar (ARTD 411)

**200-level courses:****ARTD 210 - Acting**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Acting is for students who are interested in the history and fundamentals of acting. Skills covered include physical behavior, stage movement, voice and speech, character development, improvisation, and historical or period drama. Using the work of contemporary and classical playwrights, students begin to develop their own technique. We open our studio to the school community for in-class performances at least once per semester. Attending performances outside of Horace Mann in addition to all school productions is a requirement of the course. Students who take this course are prepared for Theatre Ensemble and Acting for the Camera.

**ARTD 211 - Stagecraft in School - Period H Crew**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit*

This is a full-year, half-credit course which meets during a regularly scheduled period during the school day. Students learn how to safely use tools in construction of set pieces, how to hang, focus, and circuit lights, and a variety of other skills related to theatrical scenic technology. Students in this course do not attend after-school classes and are not expected to run the backstage activities for the season's productions.

**ARTD 212 - Dance Workshop for Arts Credit****PHED 212 - Dance Workshop for PE Credit**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle.*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit or PE credit*

*Students taking part in a school sport are excused from class for the duration of their athletic season if they take the class for PE credit.*

Dance Workshop emphasizes the development of a strong technical base in American classical forms including Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap and Hip Hop, as well as Pilates and/or Yoga, and World Dance influences. Training includes warm-ups, improvisation, stretching exercises, and traveling combinations. Rhythmic awareness and the relationship between music and dance will be emphasized throughout.

Dance is a performing art and as such, there is the potential to share our work with the greater Horace Mann community throughout the

year. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory. Additional assignments to encounter live dance of your own choice and on your own time may also be a part of this course.

**ARTD 213 - Yoga & Meditation for Arts Credit**

**PHED 213 –Yoga & Meditation for PE Credit**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit or PE credit*

*Students taking part in a school sport are excused from class for the duration of their athletic season if they take the class for PE credit.*

A regular yoga practice increases mental clarity, boosts memory, reduces stress and improves overall health and well-being. This full-year, half-credit course consists of three main components:

- Breathing Exercises to calm, energize or focus the body/mind, and to create greater communication between the two brain hemispheres
- Yogic Postures (asanas) to build strength, balance, and flexibility
- Mindfulness Meditation to relax the nervous system, increase concentration and improve decision making

Yoga and mindfulness have also been known to build confidence and support foundational skills in actors, singers, dancers, and public speakers.

**ARTD 230 - Dance in Historical and Cultural Perspective**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Appreciation credit*

This course looks at dancing as it exists in a variety of world cultures, including our own, as social activity, an expression of religious beliefs, popular entertainment, and high art. Through a combination of visual materials, readings, discussion, and in-class essays, the students ask and answer such questions as: “What is dancing?”, “Why do we dance?”, “Why are there enemies of dance?”, “Where does choreography come from?”, and “How has dance evolved over the course of history?” In addition to the class work, there are sessions in the dance studio where we try out what we’ve been studying, from social dances of various eras to ballet, modern dance, jazz, and even recent film choreography. Quizzes and homework assignments complement the classwork and studio sessions. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**ARTD 231 - History of American Musical Theatre**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Appreciation credit*

Examining Musical Theatre as a commercial product, an agent for cultural change, and as a chronicle of our times, this course is a historical survey of the American Musical. We look at the musical's development from its origins in burlesque, light opera, and vaudeville; to its contemporary form, with a focus on the changing views of audiences and in the context of American and world culture. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**ARTD 201 - Performance in Major Theatre & Dance Productions**

*One third credit, meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from end of school until 5:45 pm.*

*Prerequisites: Auditions*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Three fully-staged productions of world theatre are undertaken each year. Through them, students explore the art of theatre in all of its complexity. The Horace Mann Theatre Department aims to create the most professional productions possible. Actors learn style, interpretive skills, movement, vocal production, and gain experience in making commitments and meeting deadlines.

The goal of the Horace Mann Dance Department is to inspire and guide students in all elements of dance, choreography, and performance skills. The Dance Concert consists of faculty-generated choreography, providing dancers with an optimum rehearsal and performance experience. The Dance Concert occurs every year.

**ARTD 202 - Stagecraft Afterschool**

*One quarter credit, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from end of school until 5:45pm.*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Five fully-staged productions are undertaken each year. Through them, students explore the art of theatre in all of its complexity. The Horace Mann Department of Theatre and Dance aims to create the most professional productions possible. Students learn technical skills such as carpentry, painting, sound engineering, and theatrical lighting, and gain experience in making commitments and meeting deadlines. To take this course, the student must attend crew on one of the first three crew days in a quarter and commit to the Technical Crew for that quarter. The faculty will register the members of the class at the end of the second week of meetings.

**300-level courses:****ARTD 310 - Acting for the Camera**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: Acting (ARTD 210) or performance credit in at least two major HM Upper Division productions*

*Grades 10-12*

*Studio/Performance credit*

This course provides practical instruction for acting on camera and navigating a film set. The fundamental techniques covered in Acting for the Camera are applied to performances in a variety of formats, including film, commercials, and television. Actors experiment with a range of styles and genres using both original and produced text. Throughout the year, students in Acting for the Camera may collaborate with students taking Filmmaking to create unique on-screen moments. The class watches and discusses a wide variety of on-screen performances and applies observations to their own craft. On-camera performances are shared with the larger Horace Mann community at least once a semester as a course requirement.

**ARTD 311 - Playwriting and Production**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: Submission of a short scene and approval of the instructor*

*Grades 10-12*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Playwriting students begin reading plays by influential playwrights, to learn to understand and analyze great writing. Scene writing and guided exercises provide the basis for experimenting with elements of structure, character, rhythm, and style. The group collaborates to learn about drafting through performing each other's work, followed by revising and rewriting. All class members are expected to act in readings and participate in lively discussions on writing techniques. Attending performances outside of Horace Mann and all HM productions is a requirement of the course. The final project is the writing of a one-act play that may be submitted to the One-Act Play Festival. While selected plays are produced every other year in this festival, the course culminates annually in staged readings of each writer's work.

**ARTD 312 - Introduction to Design & Technical Theatre**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: None*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Intro to Design & Technical Theatre introduces Upper Division students to the tools and techniques necessary to the process of designing for the theatre. Students explore how design choices are used as a storytelling mechanism, and how the design process will apply to creative endeavors both within the theatre, such as plays, musicals, dance or opera, as well as outside of the walls of the theatre. Students work in a variety of media as they explore scenic, lighting and costume design for the theatre. Skills and tools include: drafting of plans and elevations, scale model making, color rendering, CAD lighting plots, sketching and rendering. Emphasis is placed on the clear communication of the student's design ideas and their personal interpretation of theatrical texts. Completion of the course allows students to be eligible to design for the Theatre and Dance production season. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**ARTD 313 - Dance Performance for Arts Credit****PHED 313 - Dance Performance for PE Credit**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor*

*Participation in after-school sports does not exempt students from Dance Performance.*

*Studio/Performance half credit or PE credit*

This course builds upon the foundations established in Dance Workshop and finally places the emphasis on performance. The course culminates in multiple presentations throughout the year. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**400-level courses:****ARTD 410—Musical Theatre Performance**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: At least one credit (two half credits) in any combination of Acting, Dance Workshop, Dance Performance, Glee Club, Concert Glee Club, Treble Choir, or successful participation in school-sponsored theatrical productions, and departmental approval.*

*Auditions for this class will be held in the Spring for the following Fall.*

*Grades 11-12*

*Studio/Performance credit*

Through individualized instruction and small group work, students identify areas of artistic growth and work with their instructors to select and learn material from the musical theatre. Students have time in class to prepare and perform their pieces in a studio setting. In this course, students approach the works of the musical theatre from the perspective of both actors and musicians. Students work together and independently to create a book of repertoire that is representative of the world of Musical Theatre, their personality, and skill set. Performances showcasing this work are open to the greater school community. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**ARTD 412- Applied Design & Technical Theatre**

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle*

*Prerequisites: Intro to Design and Technical Theatre (ARTD 312), and departmental approval.*

*Grades 10-12*

*Studio/Performance credit*

This class is a continuation of concepts studied in Intro to Design and Technical Theatre. Students work on further refining their skills in drafting, model making, color rendering and textual analysis. This course allows for more in-depth discussions of design production and text. Collaborative design thinking processes are the basis of this course. Students have the opportunity to develop designs for Horace Mann School main stage productions in theatre and dance, in addition to portfolio pieces and theoretical design projects. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.

**Courses Not Offered in 2023-24****ARTD 411- Theatre Ensemble Seminar****[Not offered 2023-24]***Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle**Prerequisites: Departmental approval; priority is given to students who have previously been in two HM Upper Division productions or taken one or more classes within the Theatre and Dance Department.**Grades 10-12**Studio/Performance credit*

Theatre Ensemble Seminar is for curious and motivated students looking to broaden their theatrical studies. Units of study include advanced performance styles, directing, playwriting, devised theatre and more. The course emphasizes play production. Over the course of each semester students will work together to produce a performance to be shared with the school community. In the first semester students will be working to produce a published play. The second semester will focus on an original piece that will be devised within the class. There will be one field trip included in this course. Attending this field trip (outside of school hours and off-campus) is mandatory.