

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Visual and Performing*  
Arts Magnet Pathway  
**PROGRAM GUIDE**







# PROGRAM GUIDE

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## CONNECTICUT'S FIRST ALL-MAGNET PATHWAY

New London Public Schools (NLPS) is proud to be the first and only all-magnet pathway in the state of Connecticut. This has allowed our school district to engage students in multiple areas of interest and provide unique opportunities that are not possible in a traditional, public school setting.

Parents and their children can apply for a theme-based course of study for their child to make sure they are fully prepared to meet the demands of an advanced society. While each magnet pathway has its own theme and focus, by providing magnet programming to all students, we are fulfilling the NLPS vision to be "United in Excellence."

NLPS offers themed magnet pathways in International Education, Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM), and Visual & Performing Arts.



## WHAT IS A MAGNET SCHOOL?

The state of Connecticut legislated funding for interdistrict magnet schools to "attract students from different school districts to learn together in settings that offer unique, high-quality, themed educational opportunities."<sup>1</sup>

Magnet Schools are public schools that have a central theme and provide students with choices about the schools they attend. These schools offer specialized, focused curriculum, giving students the opportunity to succeed while learning with students of diverse backgrounds who share common interests. Children from all Connecticut towns are welcome to apply for enrollment in New London's Inter-District Magnet Schools. Our magnet programming offers enhanced educational opportunities for students to advance in a competitive, modern, and technologically rich world.

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<sup>1</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Choice Programs. Overview. <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/School-Choice/CT-School-Choice/Interdistrict-Magnet-Schools/School-Choice-Programs>

## ARTS MAGNET PATHWAY OVERVIEW

The Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Pathway offer a comprehensive, integrated educational program, in and through the arts. Rigorous academics are combined with an arts curriculum that includes vocal and instrumental music, visual art, dance, theatre, creative writing, and interdisciplinary arts. Using the Higher Order Thinking or HOTS approach of strong arts, arts integration, and democratic practice, we collaborate with arts partners from throughout the region to offer a challenging academic program responsive to every student's interest and needs. An education built on creative expression enables students to perceive, interpret, analyze, invent, and create in ways directly aligned with Common Core Standards and 21st century skills. Engaging students as confident and active citizens, critical and creative thinkers, and makers and consumers of the arts prepare our students for the college or career of their choice.

**Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School** opened as an arts-infused magnet elementary school serving students in grades K-5 in 2013. As the school's development continued, a task force of arts, education, and community members from the region worked to develop the 6-12 operations plan. In 2016, the **Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School** opened for students in grades 6-7, then added a grade each year that followed. By the 2021-22 school year, the Arts Magnet pathway was complete, serving grades kindergarten through grade 12, with its first graduates, the class of 2022.



A high-quality, comprehensive education in and through the arts, including dance, music, visual arts, theatre, and media arts plays an indispensable role in the development of 21st century learners. The arts provide multiple opportunities for students to engage in meaningful modes of learning, knowing, and expressing. Through artistic expression and evaluation, students explore ideas, relationships and realities, providing opportunities for divergent and creative thinking. As students create, perform, and respond to art, they employ higher levels of knowledge through engagement in individual and collaborative problem-solving. In addition to the intrinsic value of arts education, research has shown that deep and meaningful art experiences can result in improved performance across the disciplines. The arts enrich a child's education and play a valuable role in preparing students to be successful in college and beyond.

The Visual & Performing Arts Magnet pathway's design will fulfill its Mission and Vision as well as Connecticut's goal that "all students graduate and are prepared for lifelong learning and careers in a competitive, global economy." Therefore, Arts Magnet School is in a unique position to provide "a rigorous, literacy-based curriculum linked to authentic, real-life experiences; performance-based assessments; a school climate in which personal and social responsibility is practiced; and school-business partnerships that offer students tangible knowledge and experience."<sup>2</sup>

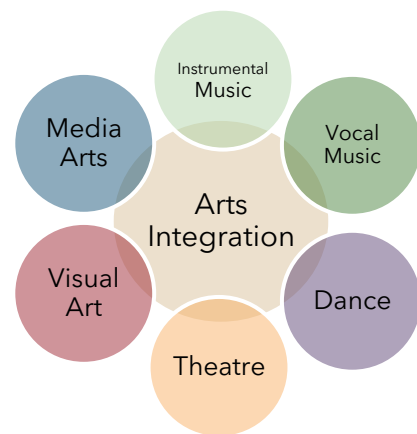
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<sup>2</sup> Connecticut State Department of Education (2007, January). *A Superior Education for Connecticut's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learners, Five-year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2006-2011*.

## INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Arts Magnet Pathway's theme includes these core elements:

- Rigorous education through authentic learning
- HOT Schools Approach<sup>3</sup>
  - *Strong Arts* - the arts are rigorous academic subjects, each with its own sequential curriculum conveying knowledge not learned through other academic disciplines
  - *Arts Integration* - integrating the arts across disciplines, creating arts-rich environments that motivate students to make connections between and among subject areas and ideas.
  - *Democratic Practice* - cultivating a democratic school culture that emphasizes individual leadership and encourages all members of the school community to contribute.
- Community Engagement, Partnerships & Outreach

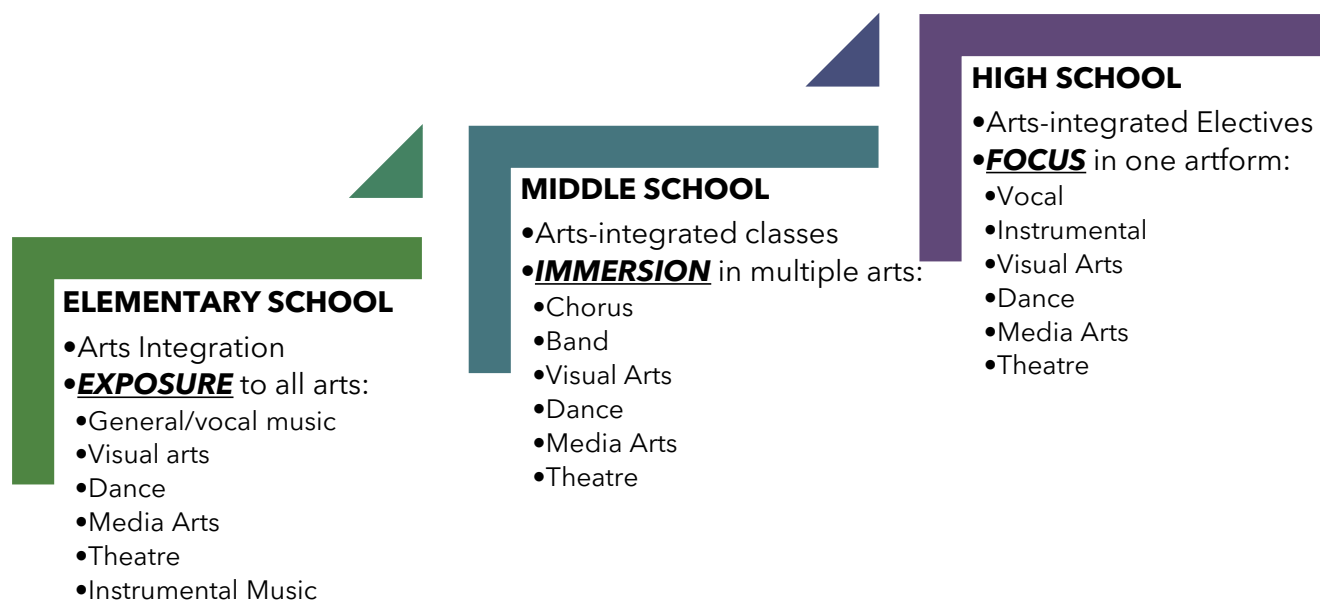


Arts Education in the Arts Magnet Pathway includes six separate and distinct disciplines: dance, instrumental and vocal music, visual arts, theatre, and media arts - each with its own body of knowledge and skills, which are then infused in their non-arts education. The rigorous education is achieved through 4 instructional approaches:

- **In the Classroom**
  - *Project-based integration*: right in their own classrooms, students are learning all subjects through arts integration and project-based learning.
- **In the Community**
  - *Audience Experiences*: students learn by being an audience in our arts-rich community by attending concerts, plays, visiting galleries, and more. They get to see and experience arts professionals in real world, formal venues.
- **From the Community**
  - *Teaching Artists & Partnerships*: by bringing those arts professionals right into the classrooms, students are provided unique opportunities to engage with teaching artists in every artform that come into the school to collaborate with teachers to integrate their learning into the arts.
- **For the Community**
  - *Student Performances & Exhibits*: as arts schools, students will have numerous opportunities to perform, present, and produce their artwork for other students, families, and the greater community.

<sup>3</sup> Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. (2007.) *Higher Order Thinking HOT Schools*.

The inclusion of these components is scaffolded from the elementary to the secondary level, becoming increasingly focused on students' area of interest as they become familiar with and experienced in each.



## ARTS SUBJECT AREAS

### DANCE

The four key components of the Dance program are **codified dance technique, ethnic/vernacular dance, dance theory, and choreography**. Students will explore dance as a natural method for learning and a basic form of aesthetic, cultural expression. Through expert instruction, students will learn and integrate a wide range of dance vocabulary and the historical and cultural contexts of dance genre, styles, and traditions. By emphasizing the creative process as well as the final performance, the curriculum provides opportunities for students to experience and develop their creative potential, pushing themselves to grow as dancers, athletes, and artists.

### MUSIC

The four key components are **vocal music, instrumental music, composition, and music literacy**. Students will have diverse opportunities to create, perform and respond to music through a variety of experiences and activities that explore many cultures and ideas. Through the intensive study and integration of music, students can perform with expression and technical accuracy, in individual and small group performances, a varied repertoire for programs of music that includes melodies, repertoire pieces, stylistically appropriate accompaniments, and improvisations in a variety of contrasting styles, demonstrating sensitivity to the audience and an understanding of the context (social, cultural, and historical).

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## VISUAL ARTS

The four key components are **2-dimensional** and **3-dimensional media, curation/museum studies** and **connecting** visual art to other areas. Students will have exposure to and develop an ongoing knowledge of art materials and processes using the elements of art and the principles of design. They will develop an appreciation of the purpose of art as a means of personal expression, and community interaction. The significance of the visual arts through world cultures and history is explored at every level. Emphasizing Instruction emphasizes the creative process as much as the product, The visual art program provides opportunities for students to explore and appreciate their own creative work and the work of others and original expressions.

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## THEATRE

The four key components are **acting, directing, design** and **technical theatre (stagecraft)**. Through the intensive study and integration of the collaborative discipline of theatre, students learn to perform, create, and produce with dynamic expression, dexterity, and technical skill. They will produce work of all scales, from individual projects to small group assignments to large cast productions-- all in the context of the facilities and resources of professional performing arts organizations. Students begin their theatrical training by developing fundamental skills, with a foundation in both acting technique and theatre and performance history, and from there will specialize in one of a rigorous sequence of acting, directing, design (costume, set, lights, & sound) or stagecraft, while still maintaining necessary proficiency in the other theatrical disciplines. They will make connections among theatre- the study of human behavior- and a range of academic disciplines, including literature and social sciences such as history and psychology.

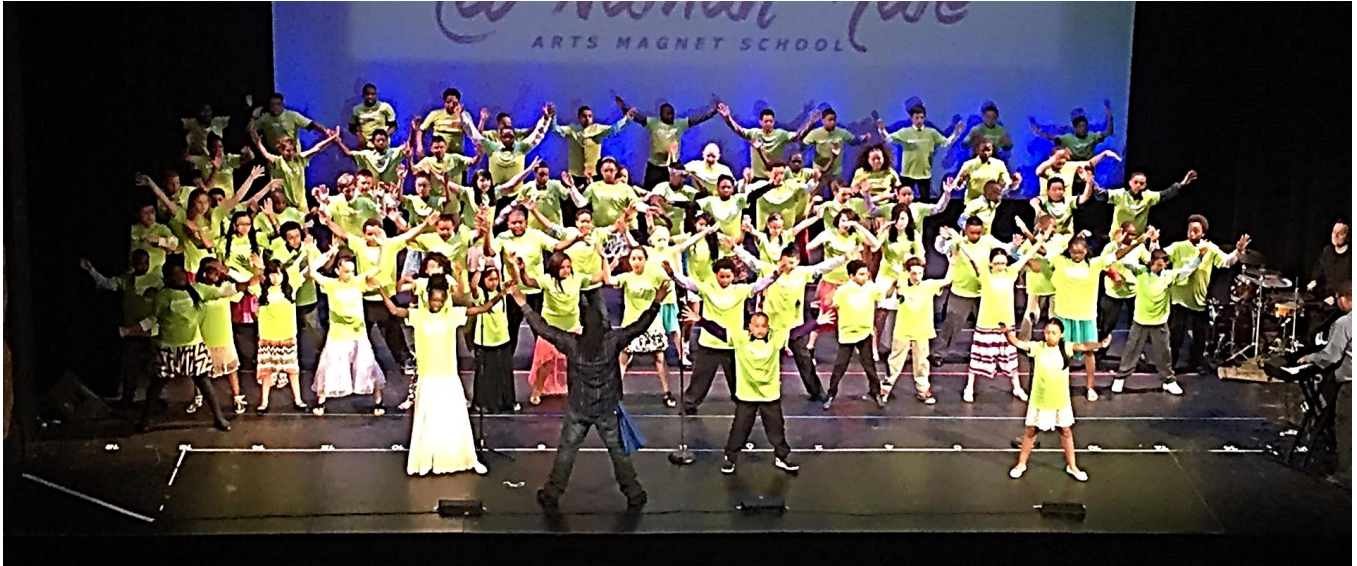
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## MEDIA ARTS

The four key components are **creative writing, graphic design, video/audio design and production**, and **multimedia work**. With a focus on these contemporary and evolving forms of artistic expression, students develop expertise as creators, storytellers, editors, and designers. By exploring a variety of literary and digital styles, students understand how different media reflects ideas, emotions, and cultural traditions. As students make connections between their lives and the evolving age of digital media, they are guided to produce original artistic expressions. As students analyze and reflect on their own work, their peer's work, and published works, they learn to accept differences while identifying common themes and experiences.







## ENROLLMENT

The Arts Magnet pathway may enroll up to about 100 students per grade, kindergarten through grade 12. Students who reside in Connecticut are eligible to apply to the lottery, and enrollment will include 70-75% New London residents and 25-30% residents from towns outside of New London.

Students in grades K-5 attend Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School which opened with new construction in the 2013-14 school year. As the Arts pathway added grades 6-12, our students have been located on two separate campuses during school construction and the development of the pathway. Starting in 2023-24, students in grades 6-12 will attend the Visual & Performing Arts Magnet school which will be located at the newly completed New London High School Multi-Magnet campus.

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	23-24	24-25
Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Multi-Magnet Campus @BDJMS				6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
				7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
				8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Multi-Magnet Campus @NLHS					9	9	9	9	9	9	9
						10	10	10	10	10	10
							11	11	11	11	11
								12	12	12	12

## ELEMENTARY (K-5) - NATHAN HALE ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

### HOW TO FIND US

Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School is located near Ocean Beach: 37 Beech Drive, New London, Connecticut. The website is [nhams.newlondon.org](http://nhams.newlondon.org) and we are on Facebook @NathanHaleArts.

### MISSION & VISION

The Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School provides students from kindergarten through grade 5 an integrated learning environment that combines traditional academics with an arts curriculum that includes vocal and instrumental music, visual art, dance, theatre, media arts. Utilizing research-based teaching and learning practices in reading, mathematics, science, technology and the arts, students will make interdisciplinary connections, and engage in project-based learning. Instruction in core academic areas, as well as participation in live performances and public showcases of their work, will provide students with challenging learning activities that will develop their ability to demonstrate creativity, communicate effectively, collaborate with others, and assume leadership roles. The school will seek to transcend the work of a traditional elementary school. Teachers will focus on educating the whole child and on developing a community of learners that values the work of all individuals, supporting our students academically, artistically, physically, socially, and emotionally.



### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The goal of Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School (NHAMS) is to provide students in grades K-5 with the skills necessary to grow academically and artistically. The school will accomplish this by providing the students with a rigorous core academic program infused with the arts. Students will make interdisciplinary connections, engage in project-based learning, participate in the production cycle and work with our partnering organizations as they develop and refine new skills.

NHAMS will integrate learning experiences and activities that support the students' development. The arts curricula will be built into each student's daily schedule to provide them with additional experiences that enhance their training in the arts. By the end of grade 5, students will gain exposure in all art forms by participating in classes that help them to identify their interests and abilities.

### FACILITIES

To implement its educational program, the facilities at NHAMS include a professional grade dance studio with sprung floor, large art studio, kiln room, and an outdoor art classroom, band room, general/choral music room, black box theatre classroom, media arts lab, video production studio, Pages Café, gymnasium with stage and theatre lighting, cafeteria, science lab, playground with playscape and fields, separate kindergarten playground, as well as all other general school facilities.

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## PRIMARY GRADES (K-3)

All students in grades K-3 are exposed to all 5 of the arts areas every year. Arts courses at NHAMS are called "Essentials" instead of specials or other common terms as they are considered *essential* to students' foundational education.

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### ARTS MAGNET-THEMED COURSES (K-3)

In addition to the **physical education, music,** and **visual art** curriculum that students receive in all the NLPS magnet pathways, all NHAMS students in K-3 also participate in magnet-specific Essentials:

- **Dance** - students learn appropriate studio etiquette and the elements of dance. They will be exposed to ballet, hip hop, jazz and tap and begin to focus on the performance of dance routines incorporating all elements of dance and intentional movement.
- **Media Arts** - students become well-versed in Garage band, Scratch, iMovie, and the video production lab. They are perfecting a strong foundation for choice in preparation to move into more advanced concentrations for fourth and fifth grade.
- **Theatre** - Students will learn about being on stage and performing, as well as basic theater elements from puppetry to costuming. Students will also learn improvisational theatre games and techniques, which will assist with acting skills and confidence on the stage.
- **Pages Café** - students combine literature, imagination, and cooperation in Pages Café through storytelling and exploring learning centers in our makerspace which is based on the principles of STREAM: science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, and math.

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## UPPER ELEMENTARY GRADES (4-5)

In grades 4 and 5, Essentials provide students the opportunity to begin to focus their interests on specific arts courses. All students take physical education. In addition, students have the chance to choose which of the many offerings they will have in their individualized Essentials schedule.

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### ARTS MAGNET-THEMED COURSES (4-5)

#### Vocal Music

- Chorus
- A Capella

#### Instrumental Music

- Band instrument lesson
- Beginning Band
- Advanced Band
- Stage Band
- Guitar
- Advanced Guitar
- World Music Drumming

#### Media Arts

- Media Arts
- Advanced Media Arts
- Animation
- Video Production

#### Theatre

- Theatre
- Improv
- Nathan Hale Showmakers

#### Visual Art

- Studio Art
- Art Everywhere
- Advanced Art

#### Dance

- Ballet
- Jazz
- Tap
- Hip Hop
- Dance Ensemble

#### Pages Café

## SECONDARY (6-12) - VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

### HOW TO FIND US

The New London Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School (6-12) will be located entirely on the New London Multi-Magnet High School campus at 490 Jefferson Ave. New London, Connecticut. The website is [arts.newlondon.org](http://arts.newlondon.org) and we are on Facebook @ArtsMagnet.

### MISSION & VISION

The New London Visual & Performing Arts Magnet School (Arts Magnet) offers a comprehensive, integrated educational program, in and through the arts, designed to have all students reach their individual potential. Through a rigorous, interdisciplinary learning environment, with mutually beneficial partnerships throughout the community, we will collaborate in developing creative global citizens who strive for excellence, communicate their talents, and establish a culture of dynamic leaders in the world.



The vision of Arts Magnet is to unite the region in building a culturally rich, inclusive environment of learning and creating reflective of and responsive to its students, families and community partners that supports the academic and artistic development of its students into extraordinary, contributing members of a 21<sup>st</sup> century society through the visual and performing arts.

### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Arts Magnet is the 6-12 portion of a comprehensive K-12 the Arts Magnet Pathway. It will utilize and be central to the arts education landscape in the region. As the culmination of this pathway, the school will also contribute to and be a model for the K-5 students in the Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School who are intended to be the Arts Magnet School's future students. Arts Magnet School will ensure that the educational environment promotes collaboration, self-reliance, ethical behavior, and civic engagement.

### FACILITIES

Arts Magnet facilities include two dance studios with dressing rooms, 2-D and 3-D art studios and kiln room connected to a courtyard, two band rooms, choral music room, scenery studio, media arts lab, TV and audio recording studios, graphic arts lab, large auditorium and stage with fly space, as well as all other general school facilities on the campus.

The Multi-Magnet Campus includes facilities for all pathways including gymnasium, cafeteria, athletic fields, weight rooms and exercise facilities, multiple locker rooms, science labs, general education classrooms, lecture hall, student union, culinary kitchens, media center, computer labs, greenhouse, gardens, and specialized STEM labs such as the 3-D animation studio and athletic training room.

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## MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)

Academics will continue to integrate the arts meaningful ways at Arts Magnet in grades 6-8. By integrating the arts authentically throughout non-arts courses and project-based learning, students develop multiple perspectives critical to real-world thinking that is aligned to the Connecticut Core Standards for ELA, Literacy, Math, Social Studies, and Next Generation Science Standards. In addition, students' arts-integrated education will be enhanced with teaching artist collaborations and field trips to arts performances and exhibits and other hands-on experiences.

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### ARTS MAGNET-THEMED COURSES (6-8)

After being exposed to all the arts in grade K-5, students are then immersed into several arts in which they choose to engage at deeper levels throughout middle school to then be able to select an arts area of focus in high school.

#### Music

- Beginning Instruments
- Instrumental sectionals
- Intermediate Band
- Advanced Band
- Chorus
- Advanced Choir
- Piano Keyboarding
- Guitar

#### Dance

- Dance Foundations
- Advanced Dance

#### Visual Art

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade Art Foundations
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Art Foundations
- 2-D Drawing & Painting
- 3-D Sculpture
- Art in Culture

#### Media Arts

#### Theatre

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## HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

In addition to a wide variety of arts courses, the high school program will include a variety of non-arts electives that integrate the arts and fulfill credit requirements for students in non-arts subjects. After being immersed in several different arts areas in grades 6-8, students then focus on one of the following as a specific arts "major" for their four years of high school: **Music, Visual Art, Dance, Media Arts, or Theatre.**

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### ARTS-INTEGRATED ELECTIVES (9-12)

- African American Music History - fulfills credit requirement for Social Studies
- Creative Writing - fulfills credit requirement for English
- Drama through Literature - fulfills credit requirement for English
- Dance - fulfills credit requirement for Physical Education
- Video Production - fulfills credit requirement for STEM elective
- 3-D Animation - fulfills credit requirement for STEM elective

## ARTS MAGNET-THEMED COURSES (9-12)

All Arts Magnet high school students are expected to identify one arts area on which to focus, i.e., their “major” for their four years of high school. Courses listed under each major can fulfill this requirement unless designated as an elective (i.e., it cannot be taken to fulfill their major course of study but could be added as a course in addition to their major arts course).



Once students have selected their arts major course, they are also welcomed to add other arts courses outside of their major arts area as their schedule allows.

### Music

- Symphonic Band
- Concert Choir
- Music Theory\*
- Music History (before 1900) \*
- Music History (1900 to present) \*
- Music Recording & Composition\*

### Visual Art

- Art Foundations
- Art History from Prehistoric to Renaissance\*
- Art History from Baroque to Modern\*
- Figure Drawing
- Painting I
- Ceramics I
- Ceramics II
- Design II: 3-D
- Design II: 2-D

### Dance

- Dance Exploratory
- Dance Technique
- Principles of Choreography

### Media Arts

- Art Foundations
- Media Arts
- Publishing Practices
- Photography & New Media

### Theatre

- Theatre Arts
- Acting I
- Advanced Acting
- Introduction to Technical Theatre
- Advanced Technical Theatre

*\* Elective only (does not count as a required major arts course)*

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All Arts Magnet students are required to complete at least 1.0 credit in an Arts course each year.

Category	Subject	Required Credits
<b>Humanities</b>	English	<b>4.0</b> <i>(Including composition)</i>
	Social Studies	<b>3.0</b> <i>(Including 1.0 in American History and 0.5 in Civics)</i>
	Fine Arts	<b>1.0</b> <i>(Per year for Arts Magnet)</i>
	Humanities Elective <i>(From any of the above subject areas)</i>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Math)</b>	Mathematics	<b>3.0</b> <i>(Including 1.0 each in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra II or Probability/Statistics)</i>
	Science	<b>3.0</b> <i>(Including 1.0 in Biology and 1.0 Physical Science)</i>
	STEM Elective <i>(In any STEM subjects)</i>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>World Languages</b>	World Language	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Physical Education/ Health</b>	Physical Education	<b>1.0</b>
	Health & Wellness	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Electives</b>	Other Electives	<b>2.0</b> <i>(In Career &amp; life skills courses)</i>
<b>Capstone</b>	Senior Project	<b>1.0</b>
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>25.0</b>



## SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULES

The samples below fulfill graduation credits as well as to prepare a student to have a strong college application with courses appropriate to a possible major. They do not consider the many opportunities students have to take courses outside of their focus area. School Counselors in the Guidance department can help determine which courses are more flexible to be customized to a student's interests (e.g., different electives, advanced math track, etc.). In addition, courses will be added and/or revised as magnet pathways continue to be developed.

### DANCE

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
World History	American History	Government	History of Modern Dance
Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry / Pre-Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics of Dance
Exploratory Dance	Dance Technique I	World Dance	Ballroom
French I	French II	French III	Choreography
Study Hall	Health & Wellness	Marketing	Capstone Project

### THEATRE

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
World History	American History	Government	Physics
Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Chemistry	Video Production
Performing Arts	Intro to Acting	Theatre Production	Stage Direction
Spanish I	Spanish II	Spanish III	Marketing
Health & Wellness	Dance	Stagecraft	Capstone Project

### INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
World History	American History	Government	Economics
Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry / Pre-Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Chemistry	Intro to Audio/Video
Symphonic Band	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble
Italian I	Italian II	Italian III	African American Music History
Health & Wellness	Music Theory	Dance	Capstone Project

### VOCAL MUSIC

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
World History	American History	Government	Psychology
Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry / Pre-Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Chemistry	Intro to Audio/Video
Mixed Choir	Select Choir	Select Choir	Select Choir
Italian I	Italian II	Italian III	African American Music History
Health & Wellness	Music Theory	Dance	Capstone Project

### MEDIA ARTS

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	AP English IV
World History	American History	AP Government	Economics
Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry / Pre-Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Physics	Computer Sci Principles
Introduction to Audio/Video	Media Arts I	Intro to Film Studies	Advanced Media Arts Studio
Exploratory Arabic	Arabic I	Arabic II	Creative Writing / Poetry
Physical Education	Health & Wellness	Graphic Design for Advertising	Capstone Project

### VISUAL ARTS

Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English I	English II	English III	English IV
World History	American History	Government	Sociology
Algebra I	Algebra II	Geometry	Trigonometry / Pre-Calculus
Integrated Science	Biology	Chemistry	3D Animation
Art Foundations	Design II	Ceramics I	Advanced Art Portfolio
French I	French II	French III	Museum Curation
Physical Education	Health & Wellness	Marketing	Capstone Project





UNITED IN EXCELLENCE



**NEW LONDON**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS