

GRADE 9

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ART DEPARTMENT

(Visual & Performing Arts requirement – 5 credits)

Digital Arts (Semester – 2.5 credits)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Digital Arts focuses on digital photography and graphic design through the use of Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator programs. Students will learn basic foundations of composition through elements and principles of design. We will cover Adobe Photoshop techniques such as how to edit, crop, enhance, layer multiple images, distort images, and create digital photo collages. We will also focus on graphic design, typography, and vector illustration. Students will create posters, logos, products and packaging by learning how to master the pen tool in Illustrator, along with advanced techniques such as masking and creating repeating patterns. This class will explore graphic design and visual communication as they relate to various career fields, and how they influence our daily lives now more than ever before. The culmination of this course will be a final portfolio that showcases a student's personal brand and body of work. (A digital camera (provided) or smart phone is required for this class.)

Basic Art & Design (Semester – 2.5 credits)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This introductory course develops an understanding of the elements and principles of art. Projects in the areas of lettering, design, color, tone, perspective, and figure drawing are presented in a variety of media. Emphasis is placed on building self-confidence and individual development in art as a form of communication. Art appreciation is a part of each unit.

Cultural Arts (Semester – 2.5 credits)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

In this hands-on course, students will spend the year “traveling” around the world exploring different art from various countries. Projects such as basket weaving, mask making, block printing, dream-catchers, jewelry making, string art, and many more three dimensional works of art will be produced. This course will investigate the history of these cultural works of art and build on the manipulative skills within each medium.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

(Visual & Performing Arts requirement – 5 credits)

Chorus (Full Year-5 credits or Semester – 2.5 credits)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Chorus is a performing group of singers which focuses itself on the enjoyment of music. It is devoted to performance and preparation for performances. A diversified spectrum of music is offered. Concerts are presented throughout the year.

Band (Full Year-5 Credits or Semester – 2.5 credits)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This organization is a performance group which adapts to the season of the year. In the fall, winter and spring there are after school meetings in addition to meeting 4 times weekly. This is preparation for marching band and concert band. This group also participates in concerts, parades and other activities.

*****American Popular Music (proposed new semester class - Semester - 2.5 credits)**

Grades 9,10, 11, 12

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of the development of American music from the early 20th century to the present. This course will examine the relationships between events in the twentieth century, the evolution of popular music, and the cultural messages that music displayed. Through critical listening, students gain an awareness of various musical styles and an ability to appreciate music as an art form. Students also develop an understanding of the influence social and political issues have had and continue to have on American composers and performers. The course will also examine the history of recorded music and explore careers in the music industry.

Instrumental Instruction (1 day a week pull out program from Academic Study - 1.0 credit)

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

This course is open to all students who wish to learn to play a band instrument or who wish to improve their skills on a band instrument. Lessons, either individual or small group, will be scheduled at least once each week at some time during a student's study period. Fifteen to thirty minutes of daily home practice is required.