FINE ARTS

Z = Zero Hour

H = Honors Course

CC = College Credit

KR = Not included in the Qualified Admissions Approved Curriculum for KS Regents Universities

Students participating in the Fine Arts Department learn and demonstrate basic skills and appreciation of visual art, theater and music performance. As they advance, the students apply these basic skills to create and evaluate artistic works for the beauty of human expression and self-fulfillment. In addition, students exhibit respect for human and spiritual values and develop self-esteem, which enhances growth as contributing members of their Faith community.

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School requires one credit of Fine Arts; many students choose additional classes as electives. Most fine arts classes are open to students in grades 9 – 12. Show Choir and Jazz Band are offered during Zero Hour to provide more scheduling flexibility. The fine art requirement may be met by selecting from a wide variety of courses in:

- Visual art
- Vocal music
- Instrumental music
- Theater classes.

PERFORMING ARTS DRAMA AND THEATER

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Credit: ½ Grades 9 - 12

Course #: 003165

Prerequisite: None

Through hands-on experience, students will actively contribute to the production of the school musicals and plays, assisting with costumes, props, scenery, and publicity. In addition, students will explore various aspects of theatre, including acting, directing, playwriting, and video creation. Designed as an orientation to the dramatic arts, this course allows students to discover and develop their interests in different areas of theatre.

ACTING 1

Credit: ½ Grades 9 – 12

Course #: 003275

Prerequisite: None

Through acting exercises, theatre games, and in-class performances, students will develop the skills necessary to create fully realized, believable characters. The course also includes a focus on acting for the camera. Students will study notable actors and scripts, create original comedies and dramas, and perform duet and solo scenes. Additional topics include improvisational comedy, pantomime, and audition techniques.

ADVANCED DRAMA

Credit: ½ Grades 10 - 12

Course #: 003295

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Introduction to Theatre, Acting I or teacher permission.

In this course, students will build on the skills developed in Acting I and Introduction to Theatre by rehearsing and performing a diverse selection of scenes and plays. They will explore scripts from a variety of styles, genres, and time periods. The class will also take part in several public performances, culminating in the hosting of the annual end-of-year Theatre Awards Banquet.

FINE ARTS

	Course Number	Course Name	Possible Grade Level 9	10	11	12	Credit	Dual-Enrollment	Weighted Grade
Performing Arts	003165	Introduction to Theater	■	■	■	■	0.5		
	003275	Acting 1	■	■	■	■	0.5		
	003295	Advanced Drama		■	■	■	0.5		
	003231	Stagecraft (application request)	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003232	Advanced Stagecraft (application request)		■	■	■	1.0		
	003121	Concert Choir	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003122	Chamber Choir (Zero hour)	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003151	Show Choir *Swingin' Saints*	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003152	Girls Show Choir *Saintsations*	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003283	Band/Drumline	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	003223	Show Choir Band	■	■	■	■	0.5		
Fine Arts	001116	Art Fundamentals	■	■	■	■	0.5		
	001125	Drawing 1		■	■	■	0.5		
	001135	Painting 1		■	■	■	0.5		
	001215	Ceramics and Sculpture Art Design 1		■	■	■	0.5		
	001315	Advanced Ceramics and Sculpture Art Design 2			■	■	0.5		
	001235	Advanced Drawing & Painting 2			■	■	0.5		
	001415	Senior Art				■	0.5		
	001005	Photography	■	■	■	■	0.5		
	001335	Graphic Design		■	■	■	0.5		
Practical Arts	020311	Drafting	■	■	■	■	1.0		
	020325	Principles of Applied Engineering 1		■	■	■	0.5 or 1.0		
	020330	Principles of Applied Engineering 2			■	■	0.5 or 1.0		
	010335	Interior Design		■	■	■	0.5		

STAGECRAFT

Credit: 1 Grades 9 – 12

Course #: 003231

Prerequisite: Application and Instructor Approval

Stagecraft provides students an opportunity to design and build sets for all Saint Thomas Aquinas productions. This will include, but not limited to, the Fall Musical, Winter Play and Dinner Theater.

ADVANCED STAGECRAFT

Credit: 1 Grades 10 – 12

Course #: 003232

Prerequisite: Enrolled in Stagecraft for at least one semester and Instructor Approval

Stagecraft provides students an opportunity to design and build sets, set up and run sound and lighting plots, and be responsible for all performance needs of the drama and music departments. Students will need to be available for outside of school day rehearsals and performances. Students may be called upon to assist others in the use of the theater or other performance facilities when needed.

FINE ARTS

MUSIC

CONCERT CHOIR

Credit: 1 Grades 9 - 12

Course #: 003121

Prerequisite: None

In this SATB choir, students will learn how to sing - as well as diction, sight-singing, music theory, vocal health and choral techniques. Concert Choir will sing at STA masses throughout the school year, and has several concerts/performances throughout the year including Fall Concert, Open House, Christmas Concert, KMEA, and Small/Large Group KSHSAA Ensemble. Students in Concert Choir also have the opportunity to sing/perform in our Christmas Coffeehouse in December and Dinner Theater in the spring. Open to all students, grades 9-12.

CHAMBER CHOIR Z

Credit: 1 Grades 9-12

Course #: 003122

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval

Students will learn proper fundamentals of singing while having the opportunity to learn and perform varied types of higher level choral music. Chamber Choir sings often for STA events, local parishes, masses at STA and other local events throughout the school year. Singers in Chamber Choir learn diction, pronunciation of different languages, music theory, sight singing, IPA (international phonetic alphabet) and ear training. Chamber Choir students audition for KMEA and represent STA at the Spring Small/Large Group KSHSAA Ensemble. Students in Chamber Choir also have the opportunity to sing/perform in our Christmas Coffeehouse in December and Dinner Theater in the spring. Open to all students, grades 10-12, with audition. To schedule the audition, contact director of choral studies, Catherine Boone: cboone@stasaints.net

SHOW CHOIR (SWINGIN' SAINTS)

Credit: 1 Grades 9 – 12

Course #: 003151

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval. Students enrolled in Swingin' Saints should be concurrently enrolled in the Chamber Choir Zero Hour class.

Swingin' Saints is the only mixed competitive show choir in a Catholic High School in the Archdiocese of Johnson/Wyandotte County. Students in this show choir will study and perform: pop and show choir music with choreography, standard high school choral literature, music theory, sight singing, IPA (international phonetic alphabet) and ear training. "Swingin' Saints" performs annually at Extravaganza in November, and they participate in Open House, masses at STA, Show Choir Competitions, Dinner Theater and various other performances throughout the year. Singers in Swingin' Saints also have the opportunity to sing/perform at the Christmas Coffeehouse in December. Show Choir competition season is January 2025 - March 2025. In 2025, the show choir will travel to perform at a national event. Open to all students grades 9-12 by audition only. Audition arranged by emailing director of choral studies: Catherine Boone cboone@stasaints.net.

GIRLS SHOW CHOIR (SAINTSATIONS)

Credit: 1 Grades 9-12

Course #: 003152

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor Approval

Saintsations is the only all female competitive show choir in a Catholic High School in the Archdiocese of Johnson/Wyandotte County. In 2025, the show choir will travel to perform at a national event. Students in this show choir class will study and perform various forms of music - pop and show choir music with Choreography, art songs, classical, and acappella. Students will participate in the Fall Concert, STA Open House, Christmas Concert, masses at STA, Show Choir Competitions, as well as KSHSAA, and various other performances throughout the year. Singers in Saintsations also have the opportunity to sing/perform at the Christmas Coffeehouse in December and Dinner Theater in the spring. Show Choir competition season is January 2025 - March 2025. Open to all female students grades 9-12 by audition only. Audition arranged by emailing director of choral studies: Catherine Boone - cboone@stasaints.net

FINE ARTS

BAND/DRUMLINE

Credit: 1 Grades 9-12

Course #: 003283

Prerequisite: Prior experience in band ; instructor approval if no prior experience.

Students enrolled in band/drumline will get to play at all home varsity football and basketball games, and at selected pep assemblies throughout the year. They will also perform three concerts (Fall, Christmas, and Spring). Students enrolled in band/drumline are eligible to participate in the KMEA honor band auditions in November, the KSHSAA regional and state piano festivals in February, and the KSHSAA regional and state solo/small ensemble festivals in April. Enrollment is open to all students grades 9-12. Full-year enrollment preferred, but not required. Please email Mr. Burgess (jburgess@stasaints.net) for more information.

SHOW CHOIR BAND Z

Credit: ½ Grades 9-12

Course #: 003223 (Sem 1)

Prerequisite: Must have 2+ years prior band experience on current instrument.

Students enrolling in show choir band are committing themselves to perform with the Swingin' Saints and Saintsations show choirs at their competitions, usually four to five in number, which occur on select Saturdays during January/February/March. The show choir band accompanies Saint Thomas Aquinas' two competitive show choirs, Swingin' Saints and Saintsations, during their competition season. The show choir competition season runs during the months of January, February and March. Show Choir Band class meets only during the first semester. During the first semester, we will learn all the music for each show choir set. In January, there will be a "Preview Week", during which there will be three evening rehearsals and a performance. After preview week, they will perform at four to five show choir competitions. The competitions are always held on a Saturday. Students enrolled in show choir band are eligible to participate in the KMEA honor band auditions in November, the KSHSAA regional and state piano festivals in February, and the KSHSAA regional and state solo/small ensemble festivals in April. Enrollment is open to all students grades 9-12. Please email Mr. Burgess (jburgess@stasaints.net) for more information.

VISUAL ARTS

ART FUNDAMENTALS

Credit: ½ Grades 9-12

Course #: 001116

Prerequisite: None

Foundations in Art is a prerequisite for all other art courses except Senior Art. This course provides the student with a foundation in fundamental art skills, aesthetics, color theory and composition. Drawing, painting, and ceramic projects are presented and supplemented with a variety of 2D and 3D projects.

DRAWING 1

Credit: ½ Grades 10-12

Course #: 001125

Prerequisite: Art Fundamentals

This course is designed to build on the drawing fundamentals experienced in Foundations in Art. The students will explore various techniques and dry medias such as pencil, colored pencil, chalk pastel and oil pastel.

PAINTING 1

Credit: ½ Grades 10-12

Course #: 001135

Prerequisite: Art Fundamentals

This course emphasizes the principles and elements of art through painting. Students gain experience with wet medias such as acrylic paint and oil paint.

CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE ART DESIGN 1

Credit: ½ Grades 10-12

Course #: 001215

Prerequisites: Art Fundamentals

This course is a continuation and refinement of the 3-D principles and techniques experienced in Foundations in Art. The course includes the exploration of various hand-building techniques with clay, several molding materials, and the creation of a variety of sculptural and ornamental forms.

FINE ARTS

ADVANCED CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE ART DESIGN 2

Credit: ½ Grades 11-12
Course #: 001315
Prerequisites: Art Fundamentals, Ceramics and Sculpture Art Design 1

This course helps students refine their ceramic skills in hand building and surface decoration with clay and a variety of molding materials. This course will also introduce the student to the potter's wheel and advanced sculptural and aesthetic ornamental techniques.

ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING 2

Credit: ½ Grades 11 - 12
Course #: 001235
Prerequisite: Art Fundamentals, Drawing 1 and Painting 1

This course offers an advanced curriculum for students who would like more experience with drawing and painting. Students work with dry, wet and mixed media.

SENIOR ART

Credit: ½ Grade 12
Course #: 001415
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for the inexperienced artist interested in the enjoyment of several art forms such as clay, printmaking, and a variety of other art projects at the beginner level.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Credit: ½ Grades 9-12
Course #: 001005
Prerequisite: None

This course will be an additional entry level elective in either the graphic design or art pathway (or both). In addition, it will provide basic scaffolding for School Publications class (Yearbook) in terms of learning how to take a good photo, setting up live shots, basic editing in Adobe Photoshop as well as ad layout in Adobe InDesign. Additionally, content will cover the history of photography, influence of famous photographers and careers, how to use a digital SLR camera, lenses, filters, lighting and exposure. Iphone photography will also be studied as part of the curriculum. Students will produce a digital portfolio and will have a display of their work at the end of the semester.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Credit: ½ Grades 10-12
Course #: 001335
Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory class to digital art and graphic design with the use of technology to create artistic images, image manipulation, digital photography, graphic design, visual literacy, and the elements and principles of design in compositions. Art history and the evolution of technology incorporated into the arts will also be studied.

DRAFTING

Credit: 1 Grades 9-12
Course #: 020311
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce the fundamentals of drafting and design. Students will experience a variety of technical drawings to include Multiview Projections, Auxiliary Views, Object Shadowing, Isometric, Oblique and Perspective Drawings.

AutoCAD and 3D printing will be introduced. Students will individually compete in the KSPE Model Bridge Building Contest. Students are required to purchase special drafting equipment (approximately $30). This course fulfills the fine arts credit needed for STA graduation.

FINE ARTS

PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED ENGINEERING 1

Credit: ½ credit for one semester only or 1 credit for year-long

Grades 10-12

Course #: 020325

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1

This course will lay a foundation for understanding innovative and creative design processes. Students will problem solve to design, build, and 3D print working models using multiple CAD programs such as Fusion 360, AutoCAD, TinkerCAD and SketchUp, as well as other programs and applications as appropriate. Students will be expected to compete in area engineering competitions. Additional fees will be required and will vary depending on the students' choice in projects.

PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED ENGINEERING 2

Credit ½ credit for one semester only or 1 credit for year-long

Grades 11-12

Course #: 020330

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Engineering 1

Engineering II course continues to expand the skills, knowledge and teamwork skills using various CAD programs that were introduced in our Engineering I class. Students will be expected to participate in area Engineering competitions, designing and creating working models with 3D printers and our laser cutter. Students will have the opportunity to choose projects based on their person interest/field of study in engineering.

Additional fees will be required and will vary depending on the student's choice of projects.

INTERIOR DESIGN

Credit: ½

Grades 10-12

Course #: 010335

Prerequisite: None

This course covers design topics including roof types and exterior architectural styles, floor plans and furniture arrangements, space and design of specific rooms, elements and principles of design, color, accessories, lighting, background treatments, and career information. Hands-on activities and experiences are emphasized. This course fulfills one half credit of the fine art requirement for graduation. Interior Design is taught in the Family and Consumer Science Department.

NOTE: Interior Design will not meet the University of Missouri fine art requirement for admission.