

DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

HIGHLIGHTS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
AND NEXT STEPS

2025 - 2026



Why the Arts Matter

Arts learning activates the whole brain

- Engages cognitive, emotional, motor, and social networks simultaneously
- Strengthens memory, attention, and executive function

Research shows measurable brain benefits

- Music builds language, reading, and neural connectivity
- Visual art strengthens problem solving and flexible thinking
- Theatre & dance develop empathy, communication, and self-regulation

Impact on student success

- Higher engagement and motivation
- Stronger academic outcomes and persistence
- Supports whole-child development and well-being

[THE POWER OF MUSIC EDUCATION and the research behind it.](#)



Department Focus: High-Quality Instruction

NATIONAL CORE ARTS STANDARDS Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre And Visual Arts



The infographic is a grid of five white document icons on a grey background. Each icon has a colored circle (blue, red, orange, or purple) and a letter or letters (Cr, Pr, Re, Cn) in the same color. Below each icon is a title and a list of anchor standards. The first icon has a blue circle and no text, but a description of the standards process is provided below it.

What Are The Standards?	Creating	Performing/ Presenting/ Producing	Responding	Connecting
<p>A process that guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school.</p> <p>Read more →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anchor Standard #1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.Anchor Standard #2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.Anchor Standard #3. Refine and complete artistic work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anchor Standard #4. Select, analyze and interpret artistic work for presentation.Anchor Standard #5. Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.Anchor Standard #6. Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.Anchor Standard #8. Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.Anchor Standard #9. Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anchor Standard #10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.Anchor Standard #11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

- **Focus on High Quality Instruction**
- **Strengthening critical thinking and expanding creativity**
- **Aligned curriculum across K-12**

[Curriculum Framework Fine & Performing Arts Department](#)



Program Growth & Facility updates



Music room C107
Chorus room C105
Expanded Photo room
Digital Art update



Music Highlights

- Perform!
- Elementary, Middle, Highschool concerts
- [Chorus](#) & [Jazz Orchestra](#) debut performance
- All-District and community concerts
- [CMEA regional acceptances](#)
(competitive auditions)
- **Looking for ways to add lessons back in for HMS and HHS.**

Instrumental Music Resources: Access for All

Year	Total instruments rented
2025	267
2024	288
2023	277
2022	268
2021	117
2020	48
2019	188
2018	148



Marching Band Success

- 2025 - 2nd place at 3 local competitions
- 2024 - 1st place at 2 local competitions
 - Received highest score since 2010
- 2023 - 1st place at 1 local competition
- Color Guard Growth
 - 1 member in 2022
 - 10 members in 2025

Marching Band Goals



In the next 5 years:

- Attend more than 3 competitions per season including State Championships
- Continue to purchase equipment that makes our marching band more contemporary
 - Replace broken instruments - benefits ALL ensembles
 - Add electronics (requiring amplification)

*****Marching Band costs will increase as we grow in membership & attend more shows.**



Visual Arts Achievements



- [Scholastic Art & Writing Award winners](#)
- Various art shows and Town-wide art district show
- Community outreach and local partnerships

Student artwork displayed across
Hamden- Art in the Community



Visual Arts Events

- HHS Sidewalk Chalk Festival
- Town Wide Art Show-4/23/26
- Mural Projects
 - Spring Glen 2025
 - West Woods 2026
 - Dunbar Hill 2026
- Art Nights
 - Spring Glen, Ridge Hill, Dunbar Hill, West Woods
- Superintendent Spotlight Artist and SUPER art visits!



Visual Arts: In the Community

Student artwork can be found at:

- Miller Library
- Sergios Pizza
- Ashley's
- Cantean
- Paul and Eddy's (windows)
- Bank of America
- Bread and Chocolate
- Soup Girl
- Corner Deli





Theatre Highlights

- Mainstage productions and performances
- Children's Theatre Productions
- Community and library partnerships



****Auditoriums need updates and new equipment****



Theatre Events

- Theatre reading and partnership at Miller Library
"Smashing success"



MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

Fall Play: CLUE

Spring Musical: Emma

Michael Paolucci - Application for a Music Will instrument donation was approved and selected! 8 more mini keyboards and 2 acoustic guitars.

Horn for Kids

Every Child Art Experience Grant

Administered by the Connecticut Office of the Arts

- \$2,500 Provides funding for field trips and off-site, arts-based educational opportunities for public school students:

-Carmella Rossomando Heise - music and theatre students to the Shubert.

-Kylie McGuinness - art students will visit Yale Art Gallery

HEF Grant - Theatre , Marydell Merrill Eric Price, author of EMMA will meet and greet with the cast and crew, and provide a workshop at Miller Library

Received award from Cenergistics HMS Art and Music \$3,000.00

Next Steps & Priorities

1. Continue to focus on High Quality, student-centered learning - completing and refining curriculum across Visual Arts, Music, and Theatre

Curriculum Framework Fine & Performing Arts Department

2. Strengthen middle and high school instrumental instruction and lesson design
3. Purchase our own instruments
4. Update and improve theatre facilities to ensure they are safe, functional, and performance-ready
5. Plan for resources to support the marching band programs growth

We will continue to ensure every student has a place to belong, create, and succeed through the ARTS.

Thank you!