

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. The Horace Mann Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to instructing students in beneficial habits of mind, body, and spirit. We encourage collaborative skills, and foster patience, kindness, humor, and empathy as valued tools for living a full and happy life.

Graduation Requirement:

A total of one-and-a-half-credits in grades 9 through 12, minimum. All students must take at least one half credit in studio/performance, and at least one half credit in appreciation. See half credit requirement on page 4.

Theatre & Dance (ARTD) Courses Offered in 2026-27

200-level

- Acting I (ARTD 210)
- Stagecraft in School (ARTD 211)
- Dance Workshop (ARTD 212 /PHED 212)
- Introduction to Design & Technical Theatre (ARTD 215)
- Playwriting and Production (ARTD 220)
- Dance in Historical and Cultural Perspective (ARTD 230)
- History of American Musical Theatre (ARTD 231)
- Public Speech and Communication (ARTD 235)
- Performance in Major Theatre & Dance Productions (ARTD 201)
($\frac{1}{3}$ credit)
- Stagecraft Afterschool (ARTD 202) ($\frac{1}{3}$ credit)

300-level

- Dance Performance (ARTD 313 / PHED 313)

400-level

- Applied Design & Technical Theatre (ARTD 412)

Courses Not Offered in 2026-27:

- Theatre Ensemble Foundations (ARTD 205)
- Acting for the Camera (ARTD 310)
- Musical Theatre Performance (ARTD 410)
- Theatre Ensemble Seminar (ARTD 411)

200-level courses:

ARTD 210 - Acting I

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

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credit

This course is for students with a desire to broaden their sense of self and to explore their own instrument as a tool for performance and empathy. Students will be asked to unleash their imagination and to think of their own bodies and minds as tools of artistic expression. Skills covered include physical behavior, stage movement, voice and speech, character development, improvisation, comedy, and historical or period drama. Through theatre games, the work of contemporary playwrights, and the philosophies of exemplary acting teachers; students will develop their own technique. We will open our studio to the school community for in-class performances at least once per trimester.

Attending performances outside of Horace Mann in addition to all HMTC productions is a requirement of the course. Students who take this course are prepared for Acting II, Theatre Ensemble Seminar, Acting for the Camera, and Musical Theatre Performance.

ARTD 211 - Stagecraft in School

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 will learn the basics of carpentry, how to safely use tools, and assist in construction of set pieces and props for all HMTC productions throughout the year. Students will also learn the basics of theatrical lighting including how to hang, focus, and circuit lights. Students will learn a variety of other skills related to theatrical scenic technology depending on specific production needs. Students in this course are not required to attend afterschool crew meetings and are not expected to run the backstage activities for the season's productions. There will be one field trip included in this course.

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 this class for PE credit can be excused for one-third of the academic year in order to take Health 1 or Health 2, or play on a school athletic team.

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. Performance and/or participation in the annual Winter Dance Concert and two dress rehearsals is required. Students are also required to attend one off-campus field trip. Additional assignments to encounter live dance of students' choice and on their own time may also be a part of this course.

ARTD 215 - Introduction to Design & Technical Theatre

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle Prerequisites: None
Studio/Performance credit*

This course introduces students to the foundations of design, as well as the basic tools and techniques necessary for creating technical elements for the theatre. Students will learn carpentry skills and how to construct scenic elements, theatrical lighting, sound, costume, and prop design. Along with learning the elements and principles of design, they will explore how design choices are used to create environments that transport an audience and act as a storytelling mechanism. Students work in a variety of media as they explore script analysis, sketching and rendering, drafting of plans and elevations, scale model making, color theory, and much more. Emphasis is placed on the clear communication of the students' design ideas and their personal interpretation of theatrical texts. Students will use the skills they learn throughout the year to assist in the building and execution of HM Theatre and Dance Productions. Completion of this course allows students to be eligible to design for the Theatre and Dance production season. Students are required to attend one performance of each HM production, and one off-campus field trip.

ARTD 220 - Playwriting and Production

*Half credit, meets five days in every ten-day cycle
Prerequisites: Submission of a short scene and approval of the instructor
Studio/Performance credit or Appreciation 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 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. Students are also required to attend one off-campus field trip.

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. Students are required to attend all HM musical productions and one off-campus field trip.

ARTD 235 - Public Speech and Communication

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

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credit

Public Speech and Communication is designed to engage students in developing their own spoken voice, their physical presence, their confidence in presenting, and their sense of rhetoric. Students will work through a variety of units designed to give them as much experience as possible in presentation. Units will include: storytelling, art of speech, pitch making, recitation (poetry and spoken word), instructional speeches, speech and debate, and cross-departmental presentations. It is intended to give all students a basic understanding of how to use voice and speech to excite and inspire others, and to build their confidence as presenters and leaders.

All Horace Mann students should know that they can command a room of ten to 10,000. This course can build on the skills of students who already enjoy and thrive at this type of work, and also serve the student who is more reserved and wants to become more comfortable and confident in communicating. This course can benefit any student who wants to improve their skill in making presentations in other classes, sitting in interviews, or even making eye contact. This is for any student who wishes to become a more engaging speaker in all settings.

ARTD 201 - Performance in Major Theatre & Dance Productions

One-third credit, meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays after school until 5:45 pm

Prerequisites: Auditions

Studio/Performance credit

Three fully-staged productions of world theatre and dance are undertaken each year. Through them, students explore the art of theatre in all of its complexity. Actors learn style, interpretive skills, movement, voice and speech, and gain experience in making commitments and meeting deadlines. The goal of the Horace Mann Theatre and Dance Department is to inspire and guide students in all elements of dance, choreography, and performance skills. The Dance Concert consists of faculty- and student-generated choreography, providing dancers with an optimum rehearsal and performance experience.

ARTD 202 - Stagecraft Afterschool

One-third credit, meets Tuesdays and Thursdays after school until 5:45pm

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credit

The Stagecraft Afterschool Crew participates in creating all of the major productions in the Theatre and Dance season. Students learn technical skills such as carpentry, tool use and safety, painting, sound engineering, theatrical lighting, and much more. Students also gain experience in project management, making commitments and meeting deadlines. To receive credit for this course, the student must attend one of the first three Crew days in a trimester and commit to the Crew for that trimester. Students in this course have the opportunity to run the backstage duties for the seasons' productions.

300-level courses:

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

Studio/Performance half credit or PE credit

Participation in after-school sports or Health class does not exempt students from Dance Performance.

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. Performance in the annual Winter Dance Concert and two dress rehearsals is mandatory. Students are also required to attend one off-campus field trip.

400-level courses:

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

Studio/Performance credit

This class is a continuation of concepts studied in Introduction 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 main stage productions in Theatre and Dance, in addition to theoretical design projects and portfolio development. Students are required to attend one performance of each HM production, and one off-campus field trip.

Courses Not Offered in 2026-27:

ARTD 205 - Theatre Ensemble Foundations

[Course not offered 2026-27]

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

Prerequisites: None

Studio/Performance credit

This course is designed for students to rehearse, produce, and perform a play. Theatre Ensemble Foundations (TEF) is the entry point to courses of study in Theatre Performance. In TEF, students will produce two plays over the course of the year, one per semester. In the pursuit of play production, students will

engage in Acting, Script Analysis, Movement, Voice and Speech, and any other skills that might be specific to each production including: Dialect, Stage Combat, Puppetry, Character Study, etc. Students are required to attend all HM UD school productions and one off-campus field trip. After completing this course, students are eligible to take Acting Technique, Theatre Ensemble Seminar, and Acting for the Camera.

ARTD 310 - Acting for the Camera

[Course not offered 2026-27]

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

Prerequisites: Theatre Ensemble Foundations (ARTD 205), Acting (ARTD 210), or performance credit in at least two HM Upper Division productions 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 410 - Musical Theatre Performance

[Course not offered 2026-27]

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

Prerequisites: At least one credit (two half credits) in any combination of Acting Technique, Dance Workshop, Dance Performance, Glee Club, Concert Glee Club, Treble Choir, or successful participation in at least two HM Upper Division 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. Students are also required to attend one off-campus field trip.

ARTD 411- Theatre Ensemble Seminar

[Course not offered 2026-27]

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.

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 work to produce a published play. The second semester will focus on an original piece that will be devised within the class. Students are required to attend all HM school productions and one off-campus field trip.