SPU VAPA Syllabus
2026- 2027

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Course Description

VAPA is an introductory course in the visual and performing arts. Students participating in this elective should be comfortable performing the tasks required of their discipline which includes performing in front of an audience for theater, vocal and dance students. VIsual Arts students must be comfortable with their work being displayed. Students will mostly work on their specific discipline but there will be some whole class lessons in all four art disciplines: visual art, dance, theater, and music. Students will participate and/or perform in a group production/ culminating activity.

Visual Arts

Community Building: Collaborative projects to build trust and constructive feedback skills

Elements and Techniques: Foundational skills in drawing, color, composition, and basic art vocabulary

Creativity and Original Expression: Generating original ideas, experimenting freely, and developing a personal artistic voice

Exhibition: Putting it all together through finished bodies of work for public viewing

Theatre

Ensemble Building: Trust games and collaborative group work to build listening skills, mutual support, and a sense of community among participants

Movement and Voice: Pantomime, spatial awareness, projection, articulation, and non-verbal expression

Improvisation: Spontaneous, unscripted scene work

Script Analysis and Acting: Basic blocking, character profiling, and performing short-scripted scenes

Performance: Putting it all together through rehearsed scenes, character work, and polished performance

Vocal/ Music

Ensemble Building: Trust games and collaborative vocal work to build listening and blending skills

Voice and Technique: Breath support, pitch matching, vocal warm-ups, and healthy singing habits

Music Literacy: Basic music reading, rhythm, and understanding melody and harmony

Interpretation and Expression: Diction, dynamics, phrasing, and conveying emotion through song

Performance: Putting it all together through rehearsed songs and a polished performance

Dance

Ensemble Building: Trust exercises and group choreography to build cooperation and comfort moving together

Dance Styles and Technique: Foundational steps in a variety of types of dance including basic terminology

Choreography and Creativity: Learning set combinations and creating original movement sequences

Performance: Putting it all together through rehearsed routines, stage presence, and a polished final showcase

Reminder: Performing Arts students must wear appropriate clothing and shoes for movement.

Materials:

Notebook
Sharpened pencils
Personal art supplies if desired (pastels, water color)- Visual Art students
Please bring a water bottle labeled with your name (Glass water bottles are not allowed.)
Phones and other electronics are not allowed out on campus.

Grading Policies

90%-100% A 80-89.9% B 70-79.9% C 60%-69.9% D 0-59.9% F

Assignment Category	Weighted Percentage In Academic Grade
Performances/ Attendance	**50%**
Attendance	**25%**
Participation	**25%**

Citizenship Grade:

A Citizenship Grade reflects a student's *promptness*, *attitude, effort, and behavior in class* over the course of the trimester. At SPU, "Saints SOAR!" They are Safe, On-task, Accepting, and Respectful.

Our classrooms will support learning through a positive approach to classroom management that values group work, perseverance, and emotional and physical safety. General expectations include following school rules, being respectful, being responsible, and contributing to the learning environment. Rewards and consequences will be assigned as appropriate.

Outstanding (O): shows outstanding behavior at all times
Satisfactory (S): shows acceptable behavior for a learning environment
Needs Improvement (N): shows behavior that needs improvement
Unsatisfactory (U): shows behavior that is unsatisfactory in a learning environment

Behavior Expectations

Our behavior policies focus on making the classroom an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for everyone.
1. Follow directions the first time.
2. Be respectful and courteous to all.
3. Maintain excellent attendance (part of grade)

4. Participate in all VAPA projects and performances
5. Students will be reliable, responsible and respectful as they work in group disciplines
6. Be in your seat and ready to work at the start of the class.
7. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
8. Keep our classrooms and campus clean.
9. Any plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will **not** be tolerated.
10. All San Pasqual Union school rules apply.

You specific discipline is: _____

Please sign and return the next page

Syllabus Acknowledgement Form

Student Acknowledgement

I have read and understand the syllabus for this course. I understand what is expected of me and agree to follow the classroom procedures and policies as outlined.

Student Name (printed): _____
Student Signature: _____
Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I have reviewed the syllabus for my child's class and understand the expectations, policies, and procedures. I agree to support my child's success by encouraging responsibility, communication, and academic integrity.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed): _____
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____
Date: _____