

# FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Within every student lies a creative spirit. Our goal is to nurture the students in ways that promote self expression and that help them communicate ideas to the world. Our course offerings provide knowledge and training that we hope will enrich their lives forever.

## ART

It is our belief that an artist develops through exploring Art in an individual creative process over a period of time. In order to encourage continued creative growth on advanced levels, we have created a sequential course of study. These courses must be taken to qualify for the AP Studio Art Program. In the college admission process the art portfolio exemplifies a side of the candidate that a transcript cannot reveal, distinguishing an individual from others with equal qualifications.

For students interested in building a portfolio of work and completing AP Studio Art, you should consider the following courses:

1. Studio Art I
2. Studio Art II
3. Studio Art III: The Artist's Vision
4. Advanced Studio Art
5. Advanced Placement Studio
6. In addition to the above, we strongly suggest enrollment in one semester of Sculpture and Ceramics, Digital Design, or Digital Photography.

### **STUDIO ART I**

Creativity and original thought are crucial to the success of students in today's visual world. This course will help students understand and experience the fundamentals of the visual arts and creative thinking in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Throughout the course, students will work with a variety of traditional and modern materials and techniques including drawing, painting, digital and mixed media to find new ways of giving expression and meaning to ideas.

½ unit of credit  
have not taken

Prerequisite: Recommended for students who  
any art classes on the high school level.

### **STUDIO ART II**

This course builds on the principles of Studio Art I. The studio projects are designed to engage students in visual challenges that improve both technique and imaginative thinking.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art I or Art 9.

### **STUDIO ART III: THE ARTIST'S VISION**

Students will focus studio experience on the creative processes from beginning concepts to finished compositions. Specific visual challenges and problem solving will progress to more individual expressive pieces free from traditional boundaries. Creative work in studio and homework assignments will prepare students for Advanced Art.

½ unit of credit  
II.

Prerequisite: Studio Art I or Art 9 and Studio Art

### **STUDIO IN SCULPTURE AND CERAMICS**

Students will learn different methods and materials used by sculptors and crafts artists to create three-dimensional works of art that express each student's individual creative vision. Emphasis on ceramic arts and the use of traditional and non-traditional methods and materials will be explored.

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite.

### **STUDIO IN SCULPTURE AND CERAMICS II**

Students will continue to build on skills and concepts of Sculpture and Ceramics I. Through hands-on projects, advanced sculpture students are challenged to expand their repertoire of methods by exploring new mediums and techniques. Students are also expected to develop their own creative visions with more independent and advanced projects.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Sculpture & Ceramics

Grades 10 -12

### **ADVANCED STUDIO ART - Year**

This course is designed for students preparing for Advanced Placement Studio Art. Complex visual challenges will be presented, and students will pursue a more sophisticated approach to painting and drawing in the creation of personal and meaningful works of art. It is expected that at the end of the year students will have developed a portfolio of quality artwork that may be presented to colleges.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Studio Art I or Art 9 and

Studio Art II and

Studio Art III: The Artist's Vision.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDIO ART - Year**

The Advanced Placement Studio Art course provides high school students with college level art experiences leading to the completion of a portfolio of work for evaluation by the AP examiners. The course is designed for students who have demonstrated maturity and a superior ability to express ideas, concepts, and techniques in two dimensional works of art. Students who are highly motivated, who have had successful experiences in previous art courses, and who are willing to devote considerable outside class time to their artwork are good candidates for this course.

The AP Course focuses on developing works of art for a portfolio that demonstrates excellence in the following areas:

- A. Quality - The overall strength of particular pieces
- B. Concentration - A commitment in depth to a self designed artistic concern
- C. Breadth - Specific experiences in design, color, sculpture and drawing

A portfolio that demonstrates these categories, in approximately 30 pieces of artwork, is required for the Advanced Placement exam. Advanced Placement work involves significantly more time and commitment than most high school art course. Therefore, the program is intended for students seriously committed to studying art.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Advanced Studio Art

### **DIGITAL DESIGN**

In this course students will develop an understanding of how to create digital artwork that expresses each artist's creative vision through graphic design. Students will be challenged to develop their visual

and critical thinking skills through computer based art projects; learning how graphic design and digital media has influenced our everyday life in various dimensions.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12

Meets computer literacy requirement

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

Digital Photography is an introduction to the use of the digital camera and the electronic darkroom (computers, Adobe Photoshop imaging software and related technologies) to create photography-based digital art. In-class work challenges students to explore the infinite capabilities of digital technology to select, edit, correct, restore, adjust, combine, manipulate, transform and represent photographic images.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Digital Design

Grades 10-12

Meets computer literacy requirement

### **DIGITAL ARTS II**

Digital Arts II is a continuation and extension of the concepts and techniques developed in the introductory digital classes. Digital Arts II students are challenged to match their facility in using the Adobe CS Design Suite with an understanding of design principles on a collection of personal, meaningful, thematically centered series of works. Students are expected to develop their own creative visions with more independent and advanced projects, and will approach their work with an emphasis in either digital photography or digital design.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Digital Design &/or Digital

Photography

Grades 10-12

### **AP ART HISTORY**

This is an introductory college-level course in art history. Students are expected to engage in a high level of writing, reading, and discussion-based learning. The class surveys painting, sculpture, and architecture from the ancient world to the present with an emphasis on understanding the visual arts as universal human expression. Through critical analysis, students will develop an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of art. The class will culminate with the taking of the AP Art History Exam in May.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12

### **PROJECT FASHION**

Project Fashion is an introductory class in fashion design and illustration. Through an investigation of the history and relevance of fashion - as well as challenges in design inspiration, concept development, fashion illustration, and fashion digital studio - students will take part in each stage of the fashion design process.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12 and

Studio Art I or Studio Art II

### **ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING**

This Course includes the study of house planning, design, and building construction. Students will design and develop floor plans, elevations, section and plot plans as well as a scale model of their own house design. Students will learn hand drafting skills, which later get developed into digital based designs.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Grades 10-12

Meets computer literacy requirement.

### **“SMALLTOWN, USA”**

This is a class for anyone interested in model-making and crafts. Students will design and build miniature structures that will become part of a model town, complete with planes, trains and automobiles. The idea is to create an environment from the ground up, including the underlying structure, town plan and buildings. This could be a great opportunity for students who have already taken Architectural Drawing, although it is not a pre-requisite.

½ unit of credit

Meets ½ credit for Art/Music/Drama  
or Practical Art requirement.  
Only open to Grades 10-12

### **STAGECRAFT**

There is more to putting on a play than just acting. Find out what goes on behind the scenes. We will examine different styles of set design and construction, using a variety of tools, painting techniques and special stage effects. We will also look at lighting for the stage and the various roles of the backstage crews. This is a fun course for anyone interested in theater from a different point of view.

**NOTE:** This class is offered on a flexible schedule basis

½ unit of credit  
Art/Music/Drama

No prerequisite. Meets ½ credit of  
or Practical Arts requirement.

### **LIGHTING AND SOUND DESIGN P.M.**

A course for students interested in the technological aspects of production, including basic lighting and sound design and implementation. This “hands-on” course uses computers to do sound editing and lighting sequencing. Students will also have the opportunity to learn basic repair and installation of the equipment. Students are expected to contribute to school productions.

**NOTE:** This class is offered on a flexible schedule basis

½ unit of credit  
Art/Music/Drama  
requirement.

No prerequisite. Meets ½ credit of  
or Practical Arts or computer literacy

### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA PRODUCTION**

Using the latest green screen technology and video equipment, this class will introduce students to the concepts and skills required to produce high quality media content. Students will gain hands-on experience working with a multiple camera setup with a focus on critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will have an understanding of all the key roles involved in producing a variety of different live productions from conception to production including: talk shows, variety shows, commercials, TV news, game shows, etc. Students will utilize NewTek hardware and software to take advantage of virtual sets and backgrounds.

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite. Meets ½ credit of  
Art/Music/Drama or Practical Arts or computer  
literacy requirement.

### **FILM AND VIDEO - Semester Course**

This course deals primarily with developing original ideas and stories, exploring camera and editing techniques, including effects, imagery and symbolism, etc. We also watch a selection of films to illustrate various techniques and to examine the art of filmmaking from a technical perspective in order to give the student a deeper appreciation and an ability to assess the cultural and aesthetic impacts that film has in our society.

½ unit of credit  
credit  
literacy.

No prerequisite. Meets requirement of ½  
Art/Music/Drama or computer

### **FILM AND VIDEO II: THE SEQUEL - Semester Course**

In this course, students will continue the study of cinematic techniques, their mechanics and philosophies. Students will watch a variety of historic and contemporary films, concentrating on those that have an unusual point of view; such as the works of Fellini, Bunuel, Lyne, Scott, Kubrick, and Lynch. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the genre by creating their own videos, and presenting analyses of selected films.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Film And Video I.  
Meets requirement of ½ credit of  
Art/Music/Drama or computer literacy.

### **GRAPHIC LITERATURE:**

This is an interdisciplinary class developed by the English, Social Studies, and Fine Arts departments. It is for students who have a strong interest in creative storytelling. The emphasis of the course is on the processes inherent in the composition of graphic literature, and the examination, analysis, and creation of the textual and visual elements of comics. Students will study literature, style, politics, history, visual art and the relationship among these disciplines.

This course will culminate with the development, organization and implementation of a school-wide convention, during which students will present the original works they have created.

Graphic Literature is a three-period, three-credit course which fulfills the 12<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies requirements and also grants an elective credit in Fine Arts.

3 units of credit

# DRAMA

There is a variety of courses to meet the needs of all students.

Because it is a developmental art, Acting is offered in all four years. Drama is offered as a full year course, or students can elect to take a half year of Improvisation and/or a half year of Acting 101. Repertory Theatre is an Honors Class that requires a previous year of Drama as well as approval by the instructor.

## **DRAMA - Full Year**

Acting is fun—performing before the class and discovering talents you may not have realized before! This course is designed to allow the student to develop performance skills. We will also delve into the history of theater and view productions of varying styles. All aspects of theater such as acting, directing, playwriting, scenery design, costumes, lighting and make-up will be explored in order to instill a deeper appreciation of the art of the theater and its relevance to our society today.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite. Meets the requirement of one credit of Art/Music/Drama.

## **IMPROVISATION - Semester Course**

Would you like to think on your feet and know what to say in any situation? Have you ever watched “Whose line is it, anyway?” and thought “That looks like fun and I want to do that”. Or have you thought “That looks like fun but I could never do that?” Either way this class is for you. This class will be an enjoyable way to help you overcome your fears and develop your own inner spontaneity. No experience necessary! All welcome.

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite. Meets the ½ year requirement of Art/Music/Drama.

## **ACTING 101 – Half Year**

Learning the tools of Acting is enormous fun and a great way to relieve stress – let yourself be yourself, or “someone else”, for a few minutes each day. This class encourages you to expand what you think you can do, and you will discover several techniques that will help you both onstage and off. A must for the aspiring actor; a must for those terrified of performing, presenting, or simply speaking. Differentiated instruction. Your goal is our goal.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Improvisation or approval of Department Chairperson

## **REPERTORY THEATER - Full Year - Honors**

In this class, students will continue to acquire the tools necessary to appreciate and practice Theater Arts on a more advanced level. We will continue to explore plays, not as literary texts, but as living documents to be experienced in real time. Each year, we will explore and perform passages from a variety of styles including ancient verse, Naturalism, American Expressionism and Absurdism. More advanced work on the Linklater voice-work progression will be introduced, leading to a greater openness and expressivity. We will explore the Director’s role in shaping the dramatic experience and providing it with meaning. In-class viewings and field trips will be planned in order to experience a range of dramatic performances and evaluate their differing styles. Exploration will include western and non-western performance styles.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Drama I and approval by teacher.

### **SPEAKING PROFESSIONALLY - Public Speaking**

Are you afraid and nervous in front of a group? Do college or job interviews give you nightmares? Do you want to go into a speaking profession like law and need to develop your poise and confidence?

This course is recommended for every student.

Learn how to speak naturally in front of an audience and how to prepare for college or job interviews, classroom presentations or other important functions. This course will make speaking in public less traumatic. You will learn to support your ideas and opinions with research and evidence using all available resources.

½ unit of credit  
Art/Music/Drama

No prerequisite. Meets ½ unit of requirement.

### **STAGECRAFT**

There is more to putting on a play than just acting. Find out what goes on behind the scenes. We will examine different styles of set design and construction, using a variety of tools, painting techniques and special stage effects. We will also look at lighting for the stage and the various roles of the backstage crews. This is a fun course for anyone interested in theater from a different point of view.

NOTE: This class is offered on a flexible schedule basis .

½ unit of credit  
Art/Music/Drama

No prerequisite. Meets ½ credit of  
or Practical Arts requirement.

### **LIGHTING AND SOUND DESIGN P.M.**

A course for students interested in the technological aspects of production, including basic lighting and sound design and implementation. This “hands-on” course uses computers to do sound editing and lighting sequencing. Students will also have the opportunity to learn basic repair and installation of the equipment. Students are expected to contribute to school productions.

NOTE: This class is offered on a flexible out-of-schedule basis (after school, afternoons, evenings, and weekends) throughout the year.

½ unit of credit  
Art/Music/Drama

No prerequisite. Meets ½ credit of  
or Practical Arts or computer literacy

requirement.

# MUSIC

The study of music opens the mind to a non-discursive knowledge embodied in feelings and emotions. It encourages discipline and provides a sense of accomplishment. Whether studied from without, or within Performance / Composition, the student gains insights into a world that is universal. All courses meet the Art/Music/Drama graduation requirement.

All musicians are encouraged to audition for the North Chamber Music Society, Jazz Ensemble and the Musical Pit Orchestras for productions at North High and North Middle and to prepare solo compositions to participate in the Spring NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Adjudication Festivals that can lead to being selected for the prestigious All County and All State performing ensembles.

Membership in vocal and/or instrumental ensembles entails mandatory attendance at all scheduled performances.

## **FRESHMAN SINGERS**

Freshman Singers is a choral ensemble for all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in singing. We will work on solo and ensemble vocal technique, sight singing, and preparation for a variety of performances.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite.

Meets Art/Drama/Music requirement.

## **THE LONG ISLAND SOUND**

The Long Island Sound is a specialized vocal ensemble for students in grades 10, 11 and 12. Rehearsals/classes will meet during the school day. The repertoire will include pop songs, theater songs, and jazz standards selected to showcase the talents and ranges of the group and will include opportunities for featured soloists. Students will spend time preparing songs, learning arrangements and practicing vocal and performance techniques. Some one-on-one coaching will be available as part of this course. Complete commitment to the rehearsal process and performance engagements is expected.

½ unit of credit

Audition/Interview required.

Meets Art/Drama/Music requirement.

## **CHORUS – Full Year**

Chorus is a large choral ensemble for students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who are interested in singing. No audition is required. The ensemble works on repertoire of all types and is the main ensemble for singing larger choral masterworks with orchestra. Attendance at all concert performance dates and times is required to receive credit.

**NOTE:** This class is offered on an out-of-schedule basis (usually on Wednesday evenings) throughout the year.

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite.

Meets Art/Drama/Music requirement.

## **SURVEY OF MUSIC**

Music Appreciation includes the ability to recognize, identify and comment on famous master works, the historical styles of Music, and their composers. This is accomplished by listening to and comparing various styles and forms of musical composition in a historical context.



½ unit of credit

No prerequisite.  
Meets ½ unit of Art/Drama/Music requirement  
or computer literacy.

### **BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE PIANO**

Have you ever wanted to play the piano? Do you play the piano and want to develop your skills? Playing the piano is fun and the rewards last a lifetime. Every note, every new melody learned boosts your self-esteem. Evidence supports that students who learn to play the piano perform up to 35% better on science and math tests. Piano lessons improve physical and cognitive coordination and dexterity. No one ever regrets learning how to play the piano!

This course is recommended for students planning to take the AP Music Theory. But even if you're not, why not be the cool kid who can dazzle at your family gatherings?

½ unit of credit

### **DRUMMING 101**

Drums are among the most ancient musical instruments known to humankind. Every culture has its own style of percussion. Learn the basics of reading musical notation and drum technique. Practice your skills and start your own band!

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite

### **MUSIC THEORY and TECHNOLOGY I (Semester)**

Have you ever wanted to learn to create your own music? This is a course for students interested in learning how to use music software for recording, improvising, composing and learning basic music theory. This is an introductory course open to everyone interested in music of any style, from re-mixing to composing your own symphony. This course is of definite advantage to those aiming for AP Music Theory. The course simultaneously meets the requirement for computer literacy.

½ unit of credit

No prerequisite.

### **MUSIC THEORY and TECHNOLOGY II (Semester)**

For students having completed MT & T 1, but not yet ready for AP Music Theory.

½ unit of credit

Prerequisite: Music Theory and  
Technology I or instrumental study.

### **AP MUSIC THEORY**

This course is for the student interested in advanced music composition and music theory. Knowledge of an instrument, especially piano, is desirable. This course will include the study of four part writing in the style of Bach, species counterpoint, analysis, and musical style from the Medieval to the Modern, along with practice in ear training, sight singing, and aural musicianship. The AP test is required for completion of the course.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Earlier study in Music Theory,  
Music Theory and Technology, and/or  
interview with the instructor.

### **CONCERT BAND – Full Year**

Enrollment in Concert Band is available to all ninth grade woodwind, brass and percussion players and

one keyboard player. Students remain in Concert Band for as many terms (usually two) as necessary until he/she qualifies for SYMPHONIC BAND and subject to satisfactory performance. The course is designed for 9<sup>th</sup> grade band students as well as for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who need remedial instruction in instrumental techniques. The Concert Band class combines with the Symphonic Band to provide musical entertainment at various events and concerts.

Students may be invited to rehearse and perform with the SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA after school on Tuesdays and Fridays.

1 unit of credit  
year.

Prerequisite: Concert Band or Eighth Grade Band previous

### **SYMPHONIC BAND – Full Year**

Enrollment in the Symphonic Band is available to all woodwind, brass and percussion players and one keyboard player who have successfully completed Concert Band Class requirements. Students remain in the Symphonic Band subject to satisfactory performance, until graduation. The most challenging works of the symphonic band repertoire (NYSSMA ratings V and VI) are studied and performed in public.

NOTE: 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are unable to be programmed daily for SYMPHONIC BAND are required to register for Concert Band to be eligible to participate in All County, All State and/or All Eastern select ensembles.

Students may be invited to rehearse and perform with the SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA after school on Tuesdays and Fridays.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Symphonic Band or Concert Band  
the previous year. Instrumental  
recommendation is required.

Director's

### **CONCERT ORCHESTRA – Full Year**

Enrollment in CONCERT ORCHESTRA is available to all ninth grade string players and one keyboard player. Students remain in CONCERT ORCHESTRA for as many terms (usually two) as necessary until he/she qualifies for SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and subject to a satisfactory performance. The course is designed for ninth grade string students as well as for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who need remedial instruction in string techniques.

The Concert Orchestra class combines with the Symphony Orchestra to provide musical entertainment at various events and concerts.

Students may be invited to rehearse and perform with the SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA after school on Tuesdays and Fridays.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Concert Orchestra or 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
orchestra previous year or by audition  
interview with the Instrumental

and  
Director.

### **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – Full Year**

Enrollment in the Symphony Orchestra is available to all string players, harpists and one keyboard player who have successfully completed the Concert Orchestra Class requirements. Woodwind, brass and percussion players are selected by the Instrumental Director from the Symphonic Band to join the strings in specially scheduled sectionals. Wind and percussion players should not register for Symphony Orchestra. Students remain in the Symphony Orchestra subject to satisfactory performance, until

graduation. The most challenging works of the symphony orchestra and string orchestra repertoire (NYSSMA ratings V and VI) are studied and performed in public.

**NOTE:** 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who are unable to be programmed daily for SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA are required to register for Concert Orchestra to be eligible to participate in All County, All State and/or All Eastern select ensembles.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Symphony Orchestra or Concert Orchestra previous year or by audition interview with the Instrumental

and  
Director.

### **CHAMBER MUSIC (A.M.)**

Enrollment in Chamber Music is available to all string, woodwind, brass, percussion players, keyboard players and guitarists. Continuation in the program is subject to satisfactory performance. The course is offered to student musicians already registered for the usual instrumental classes (Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, Concert Orchestra or Concert Band) who wish to develop instrumental techniques necessary to perform in a chamber ensemble. The course requires the students' commitment to appearances of the Chamber Music Society including their culminating concert as it appears on the district calendar.

**NOTE:** This class is offered on an out-of-schedule basis (every school day from 7:15 – 7:57 a.m.

½ unit of credit  
or

Co-requisite: Symphonic Band or Concert Band  
Symphony Orchestra or Concert Orchestra.

Performance objectives for all instrumental groups include: sight-reading skills, musicianship and performance standards at the appropriate level, and response to conductor's cues, tuning, intonation, articulation, balance, vibrato and phrasing. Self- and peer-evaluation and critical thinking skills are fostered when the students master the basic fundamentals of musicianship as they approach the music of the Masters.

A four-year sequence is strongly encouraged. The Instrumental and Choral Directors are always available for students to discuss their involvement in the program.