**FINE ARTS, VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS**

**SAMPLE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

 Fine Arts and other elective courses provide an opportunity for your student to explore their interests, lighten a demanding class schedule, and have fun studying something they love. They also can show colleges your interests and skills. Fine Arts can be Music, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Film Appreciation, Graphic Arts, Architecture, Culinary Arts, Dance History, Photography, Paper-Making and more, even a course with a title such as "Why Art Matters?" There are too many options to count, nor to list here. (I like going to the local public/private school online course listings to find interesting choices), or create your own. Your Course Descriptions must conform to what was taught, and **list** **instructor/ textbook**(s) used below your course description(s). Ideally add the instructor "bio" as well. (Note that "Honors" level are deeper and more expansive in learning and experience). Here is but a sample smattering of courses from a local high school:

**Piano, Music Composition** (10 Credits): Beginning Music Theory teaches the musician how to look at music from the composer's point of view. Students gain basic knowledge of musical terminology, symbols, harmony and contrapuntal voice leading, culminating in advanced structural and harmonic analysis.

**Piano, Advanced Theory** (10 Credits): In Advanced Theory, the structure of music, harmonic, rhythmic and melodic are studied through skills of analysis and part-writing. It assumes a basic knowledge of music reading-including note names and key signatures. The basics of harmonic and rhythmic structures, scales, modes, and basic diatonic harmony are covered. In addition, aural skills are developed through the use of dictation and sightsinging.

**Piano 3** (10 Credits): This class is designed to be a chronological survey of music written specifically for keyboard from the 17th to the 21st centuries. Content is divided into the usual Baroque, Classical, Romantic and contemporary categories. While considering the music itself, the class discusses the historical progression of the instrument, the composer/pianists who wrote the bulk of today's normal recital repertoire, the evolution of technical prowess and the advent of the 'concert pianist,' public recitals, the phenomenon of competitions and other aspects of a pianist's life.

**Piano 4** (10 Credits): The student and the instructor seek to develop short-term and long-term goals.  The focus in the course is on the student’s ability to combine the elements of music (melody, harmony, texture, etc.) into cohesive and performable works.  A student demonstrates his/her progress by completing pieces of high quality and by having those pieces performed.  Listening assignments, score study assignments, discussion of college choices, portfolio preparation and career goals, may augment the scope of the lesson.

**Foundations of Fashion and Interior Design 10 credits** This Fine Arts course is designed for students who are interested in pursuing careers in either Fashion or Interior Design. It provides a foundation in the elements and principles of design, an overview of both the Fashion and Interior Design fields, and encourages the development of creative problem solving and drawing skills. Students may enroll in this course to fulfill the one-credit Fine Arts graduation requirement.

**New Forms in Art 10 credits** Students will research the work of contemporary artists employing studio processes such as collaboration, digital technology, installation, inter-arts, mixed-media, performance and site-specific works. The search for personal meaning and student artists’ intentions provides a thematic center for making works of art based upon the themes of celebration and community, both local and global.

**Culinary Arts 10 credits: S**tudents will not only learn how to cook many types of food from side dishes to desserts, but also how to budget and shop, organize, and entertain. Additionally, they will study health nutrition and proper table manners and etiquette. With an end-of-the-year dinner party project covering all they learned throughout the course, they will be able to experience cooking for a crowd and the planning and work put behind the actual event. Filled with amazing cooking tips and tricks, as well as 24 lab report sheets, evaluations and recipes, students will learn everything they need to know about making excellent food, entertaining with confidence, and extending hospitality to others.

**Dance I 10 credits** In this Fine Arts course, students are introduced to a basic working knowledge of performance concepts that they can apply to all dance forms. Experiences are based on fundamentals of ballet, modern and jazz dance. This course fulfills the graduation requirement for the Fine Arts elective as it provides instruction in aesthetics, dance history, anatomy, choreographic techniques, and performance components.

**Chamber Choir 10 credits** Students perform a variety of choral literature emphasizing singing in four or more parts as well as solo singing. Performances may include concerts, performance assessments, and community programs. After-school activities and practices are integral to the course, and grades may reflect such participation. The number of required non-school hour performances and practices during a school year may not exceed 40. Audition or director selection is required.

**Stagecraft I 10 credits** This course provides students with theory and practice in various technical and management aspects of theatre production. Technical theatre studies and experiences may include constructing scenery, props, and costumes; designing sets, lighting, sound, costumes, props, make-up and publicity. The number of after school hours is significant and is determined by the Theatre Arts teacher and the needs of the production schedule.

**Tap Dance 10 credits** Tap is one of the oldest dance forms in this country. Students are taught rhythms, timing, and leg/foot coordination done to various types of music. We teach all types of tap from standard basics like “Singing in the Rain” to funky rhythm tap as seen in “Bring In Da Noise.” Students will receive well-rounded knowledge of all types of tap.

**Advanced Theater 10 credits** This course is designed as a culmination of the student’s acting training and as preparation for entry into the professional community. Special emphasis is placed on recognizing character types, the choice of suitable audition material and interacting with partners.

**Musical Theater 10 credits** This course introduces the student to a broad range of acting techniques for the stage, specifically geared towards musical theatre. Included are in-depth studies in improvisation, scene work, and vocal technique. The course also includes the structure and production of scenes from existing scripts and scores, as well as a study in classic musical theatre scores, scripts and monologues.

These are only a sample of the ways your student can fulfill the Fine Arts/Performing Arts requirement. **Also consider “appreciation” courses, such as film, art, dance, and more, as well as cartooning, 3-D arts, graphic arts, digital media, film production, ceramics, sewing, jewelry design, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, chorale/choir, concert band, drama, guitar and other instruments, percussion, orchestra and more.**

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