

Freshmen Elective Choice Options 2015-2016

Art I Grades 9-12 (Fine Art): A survey course designed for students in grades 9-12 who are enrolling in a high school art course for the first time. Provides a variety of experiences that build on the concepts, techniques, and use of media introduced in the middle school program. Generally laboratory in nature, Art I explores and gives experience in two-dimensional (drawing, painting, printmaking) and three-dimensional (sculptural) formats and integrates art history, design principles, and aesthetic criticism and response.

Vocal Music I Grades 9-12 (Fine Art): For beginning choral students who wish to student and perform a wide variety of sacred and secular choral literature of easy to medium difficulty in a variety of styles. Emphasis is placed on vocal production and basic choral techniques, intonation, phrasing, sight reading and ear training, general musicianship skills, understanding and attitudes of individuals to the group. There are no prerequisites although some very basic minimum requirements may be recommended by the teacher. Performances and after-school rehearsals are required.

Concert Band/Percussion Ensemble & Woodwind & Brass (Fine Art) Grades 9-12: To be a member of the Concert Band, the student must be enrolled in the proper band period during the spring semester and must meet all financial obligations. Each student must comply with all rules and regulations for that particular organization. The student agrees to attend all after school rehearsals (including section rehearsal) and all performances (exceptions through director approval only). Rehearsals or sectionals will be scheduled in advance to accommodate transportation plans. Students are expected to maintain a high level of preparation as members of the Concert Band. Private instruction from a specialist is highly recommended. Private instructions can be recommended on request.

Orchestra Grades 9-12 (Fine Art): For students studying violin, viola, cello or bass. Provides students with the opportunity of continuing the study and performance of music emphasizing styles from several historical periods. The course focuses on the study of the elements of music and the development of performance skills for individuals and ensembles. Individual practice, after-school practice and rehearsal sessions, and performances are required. Performance opportunities include string orchestra, full orchestra, invitational and audition clinics, festivals, and contests.

Choral Ensemble 9-12 (Fine Art): Choral Ensemble consists of students with previous choral experience, approved by the director. Emphasis is placed on an advanced degree of musicianship, increased harmonic and rhythmic reading skills, and higher-level performance skills. Opportunities are provided for performance in school and the community, including regional and state audition clinics. Performances and after school rehearsals are required. (Prerequisites - Director Approval).

Digital Music Production Grades 9-12 (Fine Art): Intro to Digital Music class offers a practical, fully multimedia curriculum designed to teach basic musical concepts through the creative process of music composition. Students will have hands-on experience with compositional and recording software, and learn how to create, edit, save, and reproduce digital music. This course is designed to create an in-depth music compositional experience without having to know much about traditional music theory or notation. All students can have meaningful hands-on applied learning experiences that will impact not only their music experiences and learning, but also their understanding and comfort with 21st century technology.

Theater Arts for Film and TV Grades 9-12 (Fine Art): This fine-arts elective is designed for students who have an interest in drama history and acting in front of the camera. The curriculum includes acting technique, stage directions, literary analysis, theater history, stage craft, filming and editing, and theatrical presentation. Students are expected to be outgoing and highly motivated as they collaborate on TV and film projects.

Journalism 1 - Print/Web Publication Concentration Grades 9-12 (Not a Fine Art Credit) This elective credit course is designed for students who are proficient in writing and have an interest in print and web media. Curriculum includes the history and elements of journalistic style and the application of journalistic techniques to the development of STEM's newspaper, The Gryphon Gazette. Motivation, collaboration, and follow through are key skills demanded of the Journalism 1 student. (Need: English Explore Score 20-25)

Digital Arts and Design I: (Not a Fine Art Credit) This course provides a foundation in visual communication concepts and design strategies. Course content is designed to foster skills and understanding that are essential in modern digital graphics, motion graphics, publishing, Web, film/video, photography, and animation graphic industries. Focus will be on developing understanding of key design concepts and strategies, along with design challenges that translate into creative communication solutions which accurately and effectively reach targeted audiences. Along with study of design principles, conceptualization processes and techniques, students will explore various applications of design through extensive study of typography, style, composition, visual elements, color, creative technical software and various problem-solving tasks, that encourages higher order thinking. Exploration of career opportunities, development of leadership, teamwork, collaborative and technical skills requisite in many aspects of life.

Web Design I Foundations Grades 9-12: (Not a Fine Art Credit) This course prepares students with work-related skills for advancement into postsecondary education or industry. Course content includes exposure to basic Web Design and the dynamics of networking/ Internetworking, Web hosting and Web design in e-commerce. The course content provides students the opportunity to acquire fundamental skills in both theory and practical application of Web Design and of leadership and interpersonal skill development. Laboratory facilities and experiences simulate those found in the Web Page Design and construction industry. (This course requires a computerized workstation and supportive software for required applications.

Intro to Simulation, Animation 9-12: (Not a Fine Art Credit) This course focuses on introducing students to simulation and animation design, providing them with the working knowledge of development systems and processes. Students will have hands-on opportunities to create simulation products. The course will give students an extra edge in a fast-growing industry.

Extra Info Regarding Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Choral Ensemble, and Orchestra requirements:

Students are required to perform one Winter Concert in December and one Spring Concert in late April. Students may be asked to commit to no more than five after school rehearsals throughout the school year (Director will let students know in course via syllabus when these would be). Additional concerts may be scheduled in certain parts of the year. Would be included in syllabus when possible. Students wanting to participate in All-East (Senior Clinic) or All-State are required to enroll in their respective performance-based classes in order to receive eligibility to participate, per the ETSBOA By-Laws.