

Visual and Performing Arts

The Arts program provides ample opportunities for students to develop their creative interests, participate in a well-rounded arts education, and reach their artistic aspirations. We believe that arts education is crucial to the overall development and well-being of students. In addition to skill development, creative and artistic expressions, and personal discovery the arts promote connectedness to school and the community. The benefits are innumerable and extend into all post-secondary endeavors.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Visual/Fine Arts Courses

Art II

Art II may be the entry level course for most U-Prep High School art students. Students will study/review the basic elements and principles of art through a variety of two-dimensional media. The course will emphasize drawing from life and applying art theory to open-ended projects. Students are expected to complete weekly writing and sketchbook assignments, periodic reading and writing assignments, maintain a portfolio, and attempt all assigned art projects. The course develops the individual student's capabilities to a more advanced level. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Art III

Art III is an advanced course for students who have demonstrated art proficiency and serious interest during Art II. Units are designed to provide a more in-depth exploration of media while developing compositions of a more advanced nature. Students are encouraged to integrate personal interests and styles to assigned projects. Students are expected to keep a sketchbook, maintain a portfolio, attempt all projects, and participate in group critiques. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Art IV

Art IV is the fourth in a progression of elective classes where students acquire advanced skills in 2-d and 3-d art making techniques. This class covers a variety of 2-d mediums including: pencil, felt pen, charcoal, collage, scratch art, chalk and oil pastel, printmaking, acrylic and watercolor painting as well as 3d mediums in: plaster, wire, wood, foam, craft, and assemblage. Students advance their studies into: composition, design, the elements of art, color mixing, brush handling, line quality, shading, and blending, as well as assemblage, addition and subtraction, kinetics, and high and low relief by producing art in representational and non-representational contexts. Art history, vocabulary, and sketchbook drawings are also weekly components of the class. A CD containing images of student art works, a biography, awards, shows, and competition list, as well as contact information is required for the completion of the class. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Honors Art V

Students experience art through a series of projects that refine techniques at an advanced level and acquire and demonstrate advanced skills in 2 and 3 dimensional art as well as digital art production and printing. Two-dimensional mediums include: pencil and color pencil, pen and ink, collage, oil pastel, traditional and digital printmaking, acrylic and watercolor painting. Three-dimensional mediums include: plaster, wire, wood, foam, and assemblage. Students advance their knowledge and perception in: composition, design, the elements of art, color mixing, brush handling, line quality, shading, and blending, as well as hand-building, addition and subtraction, kinetics, and high and low relief. Art history, vocabulary, and sketchbook drawings are standard weekly components of the class. Students maintain both a physical portfolio of works and a digital portfolio containing a current slide show of images, biographical material, web site affiliations, and an archive of all art works. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

AP Drawing (HONORS DESIGNATION)

Advanced Placement Drawing, 2D and 3D Studio Art is a college-base class designed for students who are interested in perusing an artistic field after high school. Students will develop their creative interests and concepts while composing an individual portfolio. Unlike traditional art classes, Advanced Placement Studio Art is based solely on the portfolio which will be completed by the end of April. The portfolio will be submitted to the AP College Board the first week of May. Students will then receive their final score after the AP College Board reviews are submitted. Goals of AP Studio Art: Develop strong skills in breadth and consideration to use in field of study after high school and college/technical school. Students will develop a professional presentable portfolio for selected audiences such as colleges, galleries and museums. Students will explore and develop a series of works that are consistent with medium(s) but shows investigation, development and innovation with the immersed involvement of a compelling visual concept. From breadth, concentration and quality, the main objective is mastery of medium, theme and sequence. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Introduction to 3D Modeling and Drafting

This course explores the theory and application of solid modeling techniques for product design and manufacturing, using SolidWorks parametric modeling software. Content includes transforming computer sketches into three-dimensional features parametric modeling techniques further explored to create computer models of plastic molded parts casting and sheet metal photorealistic rendering and animation of three dimensional models to visually communicate design ideas. Students will also receive an introduction to the principles of drafting to include terminology and fundamentals, including size and shape descriptions, projection methods, geometric construction, sections, auxiliary views, and reproduction processes. This class satisfies the computer proficiency graduation requirement. Meets UC and CSU requirements.

Instrumental Music Courses

Concert Band (Audition; Open to Sixth through Twelfth Grades)

The purpose of this class is to provide students who already have training with their instrument the opportunity to play and perform in an advanced ensemble. Students in Concert Band have an obligation to themselves and band members to practice at home and bring what they have learned to daily rehearsal.

Jazz Band (Audition; Open to Seventh through Twelfth Grades)

The purpose of this class is to push students to the limit while maintaining a fun and relaxed (Jazz) atmosphere. Students in Jazz Band play more independently with a higher level of creativity and dedication to the Art of music. Every member is a potential soloist and every member has a responsibility to the greater needs of the band.

Symphonic Orchestra (Audition or 2 years of strings instruction; Open to All Grades)

An in-depth course designed to extend instruction in all aspects of string family education including technical skill, performance, historical context, composition and integration with other disciplines and art forms. Students will gain skills to enable them to be life-long learners and musicians. They will gain cultural appreciation of all forms of music and the specific application of strings education to those goals. Compositional instruction will allow students to carry their musical creativity independently.

Chamber Orchestra (Audition)

This year-long class is a strings ensemble for the mature violin, viola, cello and bass player. While not exclusively for high schoolers, students in this class demonstrate a high degree of skill and dedication to their strings experience. Repertoire is focused on advanced strings music, both classical and modern. The theory component of the class is geared towards preparation for the AP Music exam. School and community performances are a part of the course expectations. Meets UC and CSU requirements.
Prerequisites: Audition/Placement by Teacher

Guitar I/II (Open to Seventh through Twelfth Grades)

Guitar I focuses on the fundamentals of practice and performance, and provides a historical context of the guitar. Guitar II builds upon Guitar I by providing advanced instruction. Students will be introduced to a variety of techniques, skills, and genres.

Vocal Music Courses

Choraliers (Audition; Open to Seventh through Twelfth Grades)

The purpose of this class is to provide skilled students the opportunity to perform advanced music literature and prepare for future choirs and musical opportunities.

Concert Choir (Audition; Open to Ninth through Twelfth Grades)

Concert Choir is a traditional vocal ensemble that reads and performs advanced music from all musical time periods. Emphasis will be on vocal technique, ensemble technique, and sight-reading. This ensemble performs at formal and informal concerts, music festivals, civic functions, and a variety of other school activities. Meets UC and CSU requirements

Prerequisites: Audition/Placement by Teacher

Theatrical Courses and Opportunities

In addition to the deep artistic offerings at U-Prep during the school day, we also offer co-curricular theatrical activities: the Fall Musical and the Spring Play.

Fall Musical (Audition; Open to All Grades)

The Spring Play is an opportunity for students who have a dramatic bent for straight plays (no singing) to express themselves on the historic David Marr stage. It is open to all grades but generally the play is oriented to high schoolers. Past productions have included 12 Angry Jurors, The Odd Couple, All in the Timing and Pygmalion.

In addition to acting opportunities, students can also participate through stage crew, costume and prop design, stage construction, music, light and sound design. Auditions are typically right before or after winter break. Rehearsals are rigorous and run after school most days until 5 PM. Students are required to commit fully. There is the expectation that students will spend Saturdays near performance dates in extra rehearsals. In the past, the show has run for three night mid-March. Through U-Prep's VAPA program and co-curricular activities like the Spring Play, students have an opportunity for artistic enrichment at every level.

Spring Play (Audition; Open to Ninth through Twelfth Grades)

The goal of the annual U-Prep musical is to have fun while building confidence and communication skills. It is well documented that music supports many academic skills needed to be successful in school from math, memorization, critical thinking, and analysis. Music is also a great way for students to enjoy other aspects of their school experience.

Every year the musical employs 50-75 students including singers, actors, dancers, and the back stage crew. The musical brings together all of the wonderful skills and learning opportunities at U-Prep. Starting in August, the musical production begins a rigorous yet exciting rehearsal schedule culminating in a two week performance run the two weekends before Thanksgiving. The musical is a family in every sense of the word. Many families have discovered valuable family time during the musical, with the students rehearsing and other family members working on sets, props, and costumes.

The U-Prep musical theatre program's purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain our students, school community, and our outside community by providing a superior theatre experience.

Dance Courses and Opportunities

Beginning/Intermediate Dance (Open to All Grades; Audition)

This class focuses on the study of multiple dance forms including ballet, modern, jazz, and musical theatre. Students gain the ability to perform in these disciplines, learning to use style and expression. Students will be required to perform aerobic exercises throughout the year, which include running, aerobics, Pilates, yoga, and conditioning exercises. Students perform twice a year.

Advanced Dance (Open to All Grades; Audition)

This course focuses on the advanced study of multiple dance forms including ballet, modern, jazz, and musical theatre. Students gain the ability to perform in all disciplines with a strong understanding of style and expression. Students participating in this course will demonstrate excellent writing and communication skills on dance topics. This class includes opportunities for student choreography. Students will be required to perform aerobic exercises throughout the year, which include running, aerobics, Pilates, yoga, and conditioning exercises.

U-Prep Dance Team

The U-Prep Dance Team is the capstone experience within the dance department. The dance team is an award-winning program having earned exceptional recognition in the areas of choreography, technical and individual excellence, and genres of dance. Dancers compete nearly year-round in various competitions held mostly in the north state, and they perform throughout the year during school events. The Dance Team sponsors an annual dance clinic and performance opportunity for interested dancers, ages 8-14.

Additional Courses

Introduction to Music Production

This year-long elective course is available for 8th – 12th grade students and provides an overview of both the technological and business sides of music production. Analysis of samples for aesthetic and production value along with projects and presentations comprise the course curriculum. A background in music and computers is beneficial, but not required.

Video Production

This year-long course will teach students the basics of photography, camera functions, video editing, media analysis, and filmmaking. Students will work individually and in groups to write, shoot, and edit their own projects as well as Panthercast. This class satisfies the computer proficiency graduation requirement.