



Maine Arts Academy 2024-2025 Course Catalog

This is a catalog of the courses Maine Arts Academy will be offering for the 2023 - 2024 school year. This catalog is made available for students to reference.

Academic Classes

ENGLISH

English 1

This is an entry-level English course in which students will build foundational skills for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They will learn and apply their learning to real-world situations, both within the texts we read and without. Students will read and write in a variety of genres and for a variety of purposes, and the course will cover a broad array of material to adequately prepare students for English 2. Major texts may include: *Of Mice and Men*, *Long Way Down*, *12 Angry Jurors*, and *Animal Farm*.

Honors English 1

This is an accelerated version of English 1 in which students will build foundational skills for reading, writing, and communicating in preparation for high school and beyond. They will learn and apply their learning to real-world situations, both within the texts we read and without. Students will read and write in a variety of genres and for a variety of purposes. Major texts may include: *Of Mice and Men*, *Long Way Down*, *12 Angry Jurors*, and *Animal Farm*.

English 2

Prerequisite: English 1

The study of English includes the study of literature, informational texts, language, communication, writing, and research. In this course, the student will: study literature and informational texts; study grammar and learn its importance; learn to write appropriately, whether in a formal setting or informal setting; learn how to write a speech and deliver it with proper poise and confidence; and finally, learn how to research and gather data, so that he or she will be able to write a solid and intelligent research paper. This course is an extension of and will be building on the 9th-grade English course. This course also provides PSAT prep that is built into the curriculum.

Honors English 2

Prerequisite: English 1

The study of English includes the study of literature, informational texts, language, communication, writing, and research. In this course the student will: study literature and informational texts; study grammar and learn its importance; learn to write appropriately, whether in a formal setting or informal setting; learn how to write a speech and deliver it with proper poise and confidence; and finally, learn how to research and gather data, so

that he or she will be able to write a solid and intelligent research paper. This course is an extension of and will be building on the 9th grade English course. This course also provides SAT prep that is built into the curriculum. Due to the nature of being an honors course, the student will be asked to take a more responsible role in his or her education; for example, the student will develop his or her own thesis statements for essays without having a guided list of prompts from which to choose.

English 3

Prerequisite: English 2

This course is a survey of American Literature, so the student will read selections from the birth of the United States to the present day. It will continue to build on the foundation you built in the 9th and 10th grade English courses, so the student will continue to comprehend, evaluate and analyze texts, correctly and appropriately write in formal and informal situations, and be able to vigorously and responsibly research and gather solid evidence to back up any thesis statement.

ENG 101 College Writing (through the University of Maine at Augusta)

Prerequisites: English 1 and 2. Students may take this course and ENG 102W in lieu of the English 3 requirement. Fall semester only.

ENG 101 builds upon your already acquired high-school writing skills to prepare you for the more advanced writing that you will do in your college career and beyond. It gives you extensive practice in the writing process, with an emphasis on crafting expository texts appropriate to academic contexts. During the course, the students will write in various modes, including, but not limited to, narrative, expository, and persuasive. The course will prepare students, so they can write clear, specific, and original thesis statements; organize essays in regard to audience and purpose; research appropriately and effectively; revise, edit, and proofread their work; engage in peer review; actively participate in literary discussions; and fully understand all facets of MLA formatting and style.

ENG 102W Introduction to Literature (through the University of Maine at Augusta)

Prerequisite: ENG 101. Spring semester only.

This course is a collegiate introduction to English literature. The students will be studying various time periods of English literature and various genres (poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and novels). The objectives of this course are to build a comprehensive foundation of the understanding of English literature, to support and guide students in a deeper analysis of literature, to strengthen their understanding of literary research and MLA format, and to ensure their ability to write a well-supported and original final paper.

Creative Writing

This course will take students on the scenic route through various genres of Creative Writing. Major units include microfiction, short story, poetry, screenwriting, and a manuscript project-based unit (in which students create a manuscript in one of a variety of genres: a poetry, essay, or short story collection, a graphic novel, a play or screenplay, an album, etc.) Students in this class will be encouraged to find their niche in Creative Writing and develop and pursue their own creative instincts and interests as a writer. At the same time, they will be asked to expand their horizons, experiment, and try new things. This class is a writing intensive class.

Honors Poetry

This course is a survey course focused upon, you guessed it, poetry. Major units include: Poetic Form, Poetic Style, School of Poetry and Critical Lenses, and The Poetry Collection. We will read a wide array of poets and poems, and consider a variety of approaches to analyzing and writing poetry. We will consider different

perspectives on the definition of poetry itself, its value (or lack thereof) to society and culture, and will seek to answer for ourselves questions like: What makes for a “good” or a “bad” poem, and how have notions of quality changed over time? Can Instagram poetry be considered poetry? What are the different ways of understanding and approaching poetry? Is poetry relevant in the modern day? What role do sound and structure play in poetry? How have poetry and the role of poetry in society changed over time? This is a reading and writing intensive course that will combine traditional academic approaches to poetry with creative writing.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

This Pre-Algebra course is an introduction to basic algebra concepts and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra I and Geometry. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will explore algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities involving integers, decimals, exponents, fractions, and polynomials. Students will encounter ratios, proportions, percents, linear functions, and graphing techniques and will think spatially regarding area and volume, analytic geometry, data analysis, and probability.

Algebra 1

This is a first-year algebra course in which students will learn to reason symbolically. Key content involves writing, solving, and graphing linear and quadratic equations, including systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. Emphasis is placed on factoring polynomial cubic, quadratic, and linear expressions. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring or by application of the quadratic formula. The course also includes the study of monomial and polynomial expressions, inequalities, exponents, functions, rational expressions, ratios, and proportions. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

This course assumes that the student has demonstrated a solid foundation in algebra. Topics include the relationships between points, lines, and planes; the axiomatic system, logical thinking and proof writing; and measurement, including area and volume; congruency and similarity; two and three-dimensional geometric figures; parallel and perpendicular lines; and the coordinate plane. Reinforcement of algebraic problem solving methods are presented continually throughout this course within the context of geometric theorems, postulates, and concepts. Mathematical reasoning, analysis, and communication skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Algebra 2

Prerequisite: Geometry

This is a second-year algebra course in which students will extend learning from Algebra I. This course introduces students to key concepts and theories which provide a foundation for further study in mathematics and increase students’ mathematical literacy, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. The key content involves the following: writing, solving, and graphing linear equations, inequalities and systems, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions, equations, and expressions. Quadratic equations are solved by factoring, completing the square, graphically, or by application of the quadratic formula integrating both real and complex solutions. Mathematical reasoning, analysis, and communication skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Honors Calculus

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

An introductory college-level calculus course. The beginning of this course will cover the basics of trigonometry as well as some graphing and function characterization to replace the full year of pre-calculus. The areas of study in calculus that follow include graph analysis, limits of functions, continuity of functions, derivatives at a point as well as function integration and techniques of anti-differentiation. Special emphasis is placed on applications of calculus and higher-level math in real-world situations.

SCIENCE

Lab Earth Science

Semester course

This course is a one-semester course for incoming freshmen and will be combined with Introduction to Science with Lab Techniques to complete a first full year of science. It covers key topic areas in Earth Science, including the application of scientific processes to explore astronomy, the geosphere, the atmosphere, and the hydrosphere. Topics include but are not limited to the history of the universe and our solar system, the earth's interior and plate tectonics, sustainable energy sources, and weather and climate. Students will also examine and discuss both the current scientific understanding of the human impact on the world and the application of that understanding to global and local environmental issues. Classroom discussions and labs will focus on problem-solving skills, including reshaping debate into consensus and action.

Introduction to Science with Lab Techniques

Semester course

This course is a one semester course for all incoming Freshmen to be combined with Lab Earth Science to complete a first full year of science. Students will be introduced to lab safety, equipment, and procedures. Students will also learn how to use and implement the scientific method, as well as, scientific notation, dimensional analysis, and unit conversions. There will also be an introductory unit to Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Coursework, lab work, and examinations will prepare students for future science courses.

Lab Biology

Prerequisite: Introduction to Science with Lab Techniques and Lab Earth Science

Biology is the study of life. It includes an introduction to the scientific method, cytology, genetics, botany, zoology, ecology, taxonomy, evolution, biochemistry, and microbiology. Lab work includes the biological and physical adaptation of human and animal anatomy and physiology (with attention to dance and movement). Students will use critical thinking in group discussions and present independent projects. Coursework, lab work, and examinations will prepare students for future science courses.

Introduction to Lab Chemistry and Physics

Prerequisite: Lab Biology

This course is a junior-level course designed to cover the physical science standards required to be taught in the State of Maine. It also serves as a foundation for Honors Chemistry and Honors Physics, which can be taken as electives at the senior level. Physics units include Newton's three laws of motion, forces, scientific definitions of work and power, momentum, conservation and conversions of energy, relationships between electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena and behavior (including characteristics and calculations, including electromagnetic and sound waves). Chemistry units include composition and classification of matter, history of atomic structure up to the present-day model, learning the periodic table to include, but not limited to, all chemical symbols, patterns, trends, and isotopes, chemical bonding, compound naming, and chemical reactions.

Labs will include both hands-on experimentation and virtual environments. Special emphasis will be placed on continuing to develop and use critical thinking skills and apply them to problem-solving.

Honors Introduction to Lab Chemistry and Physics

Prerequisite: Lab Biology

The Honors version of this course does not have a separate section but students will be part of the regular class sections and will do all of the same work as the regular version. In addition, Honors students will be required to do additional independent readings, assignments and projects during the school year that go above and beyond the basic understanding of physical science information and standards. Class presentations and a science fair project will also be required. Honors students must also stay current turning in homework and labs and maintain an 85 or better average.

Honors Anatomy & Physiology

Prerequisite: Lab Biology

This class is designed to explore one of the most amazing machines ever assembled, of course, we are talking about the human body! During the course of study, we will investigate the following topics and systems: Orientation of the body, chemistry of life, histology, Integumentary, Muscle, Skeletal, Nervous, Senses, Endocrine, Blood, Circulatory, Lymphatic, Respiratory, Digestive, Urinary, and Reproductive systems. The course is for those interested in science-related fields. This course is designed for college preparation, especially for biology and health career majors.

Honors Microbiology

Prerequisite: Lab Biology

This course offers a comprehensive study of the field of microbiology. The course will give detailed insights into five major themes: Structure and function of microbes (cellular structures, metabolism, and growth), microbial genetics, microbial ecology, microbial diversity (prokaryotes, eukaryotes, viruses), and clinical microbiology (immunity, pathogenicity, epidemiology, control of microbes, and diseases). Students will participate in active learning activities and participate in class discussions to deepen their understanding of the microbial world and apply their knowledge to various concepts.

Honors Lab Chemistry

Prerequisite: Introduction to Lab Chemistry and Physics

This course is a senior-level elective that dives deeply into the principles of Chemistry. It builds on the basic standards that are taught in the Intro course during students' third year and expands on them to allow students to explore the field more fully. Special topics will include classifying and balancing reactions and predicting products, exploration of the relationship between energy and reactivity and a closer look at the forces that shape molecule formation and interactivity. We will also take a look at some of the various branches of chemistry, including analytical, physical, inorganic, and organic. Labs will be both hands-on in the lab and virtual.

Honors Lab Physics

Prerequisite: Introduction to Lab Chemistry and Physics

In this course, the students will more closely examine the fundamentals of Physics with a focus on Newton's Laws and the application of those laws on the four fundamental forces of our universe. Class discussions will focus on critical thinking, problem-solving, and supporting conclusions with sound evidence and scientific reasoning. We will use mathematical equations and current scientific reading to explore the ever-changing nature of reality at both a universal and a quantum level. Electricity, magnetism, particles, and waves will be

discussed as they affect the physical processes on Earth and the motions, characteristics, and forces in space. This is an honors-level course for those students who have completed Introduction to Lab Chemistry and Physics.

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States History

This one-year course will examine the history of the United States of America. The course will make connections to overall themes in history such as immigration, race relations, national values, religion, etc. We will take a critical look at the story of American history, starting with the British colonies in North America, through the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the modern era. Students will be expected to think critically about decisions and events in our history that have molded our country to the present day. We will also be making connections to civics via the study of our foundational documents and a reflective analysis of how history has and continues to impact our present. First-year course.

Honors United States History

This is a general survey course covering US History from pre-Columbian times up to the present day. The Honors program pursues these studies thematically, using enduring issues and critical lenses to study the evolution of ideas and events that have shaped the American experience for many centuries. Students will be doing research, extensive reading of primary and secondary source documents, and using film and other media wherever possible to learn about key moments and movements throughout US History. This course includes significant independent study, group work and projects, as well as public speaking assignments.

Government, Civics, and Economics

Prerequisite: United States History

In this course, students will explore the fundamental principles of government, civics, and economics. The curriculum will cover the structure and function of the government, including the roles and responsibilities of different branches, as well as the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Students will also delve into key economic concepts such as supply and demand, market structures, and the role of government in the economy. Through interactive discussions, debates, and real-world case studies, students will develop a deep understanding of how government and economics impact their daily lives and society as a whole. This course will empower students to become informed and engaged citizens who are equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Honors Government, Civics, and Economics

Prerequisite: United States History

In the Honors Government, Civics, and Economics course, students will engage in an in-depth exploration of the principles and practices of government and economics. This challenging and rigorous course will delve deeply into the structure and function of government, including an examination of the historical and philosophical foundations of democratic governance. Students will analyze complex economic theories and models, as well as the role of global markets and international trade. Through advanced readings, research projects, and critical analysis, students will develop a sophisticated understanding of the intricate workings of government and economics. This course will challenge students to think critically, engage in debates on contemporary issues, and prepare them for active participation in civic life and the global economy.

Philosophy

Prerequisite: United States History and Government, Civics, and Economics

Social Studies and English credit

This survey course covers a general history of the major philosophical schools of thought, dating from the pre-Socratics in ancient Greece all the way up to modern philosophical movements. Students will be introduced to various ideas, including questions about knowledge, beliefs, ethics and morals, scientific inquiry, art and aestheticism, social justice and fairness, government systems and economics, and the general nature of existence. Historical contexts (time/place/society) for the different philosophical schools will also be addressed. Philosophical ideas will be explored through primary source documents, fiction and non-fiction reading, and film. At least 2 novels are part of the curriculum. Strong emphasis on class participation and discussion.

History Through Literature

Prerequisite: United States History and Government & Civics

Social Studies and English credit

This course focuses on the Roaring 1920s, the Great Depression, and the New Deal. Students will learn about two very significant and distinct eras in American history that occurred in consecutive decades (the 1920s and 1930s), and how each of those eras were important in defining American culture and contributing to significant changes in American History. In addition, students will be exposed to multiple forms of literature (short stories, poetry, novels, oral histories), as well as other art forms that grew out of the Great Depression and the New Deal programs that were initiated to help support writers and artists. This course involves significant reading inside and outside of class, with at least three full-length novels.

Culture and Counterculture Throughout United States History

Prerequisite: United States History and Government & Civics

Social Studies and English credit

Throughout the course of United States history, there have always been movements against the primary direction of policy and agendas. These movements are referred to as Counterculture. In this course, students will learn about both the dominant viewpoints of society (political, social, or economic), as well as the movements that tried to give voice to those who saw things a different way. Topics include Native American studies, Labor movements, Communism, Abolition, Suffrage, Anti-War, Women's Movements, Race Issues, Environmental movements, Gender issues, and Gay Rights. Many of these countercultural movements have helped to redefine/alter the direction of US social, political, and economic policies. This course will examine these issues through primary source materials (documents, literature, speeches, protests, film, and music), helping students to understand the nature of change and subcultural movements that go against the dominant paradigms. Class requirements will include extensive readings (including novels), strongly emphasizing class discussions.

WORLD LANGUAGE

French 1-4 and Spanish 1-4

Each French or Spanish course is a year-long, one-credit course comprised of five Anchor Standards (AS):

- Interpretive Listening
- Interpretive Reading
- Presentational Speaking
- Presentational Writing
- Interpersonal Communication

Within each Anchor Standard, students progress through Learning Targets (LT), or Steps, of gradually increasing language complexity. Students move on to more challenging material as they acquire more language.

At all levels, students are developing strategies to derive meaning from level-appropriate spoken and written material, as well as to convey a level-appropriate comprehensible message in speech and writing.

Classes are conducted primarily in the target language using an approach called Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). The language is presented in meaningful contexts in a way that students can understand, using limited amounts of new vocabulary and lots of repetition to encourage acquisition. English is used for clarification, as needed.

With students giving input and direction to the discourse, the topics covered relate to real life and students' interests. Whenever possible, the arts are specifically connected to the instruction, often with cultural connections to the countries where the target language is spoken.

Fine Art Classes

DANCE

Introduction to Dance

Semester Course

This course introduces the basic dance techniques of Ballet, Modern, and Jazz/Theatrical dance. The course objective is to provide a basic understanding and awareness of the human anatomy and dance terminology, establish proper body alignment and technique as well as implement an expressive performance quality in the studio.

Repertory

Required & repeatable if you intend to perform.

For dance majors who wish to participate in a choreographer's creative process as well as creating one's own choreographic works.

Ballet 1

Not repeatable for credit.

Introduces basic technique, positions, basic steps, proper body alignment, classroom structure, etiquette and ballet vocabulary.

Contemporary 1

Not repeatable for credit.

Introduces study of basic positions, body alignment, stretches and strengthening exercises; emphasizes simple movement phrases to develop understanding of direction, rhythm and dynamics.

Ballet 2

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): instructor's consent or by audition.

Ballet 2 is a continuation of Ballet 1. An intermediate level eclectic style ballet technique class designed for the progressing dancer. Emphasis is placed on phrasing, musicality and complex neuromuscular patterning leading to a further understanding of ballet as a discipline of dance.

Contemporary 2

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): instructor's consent or by audition.

A continuation of Modern 1, emphasizing movement phrases. Intermediate level. The class includes Lester Horton Technique, a technique based on the principles of Jose Limon and Merce Cunningham, inversion work, somatics, and the instructors' own eclectic approach to contemporary modern dance. Students work to refine technique and incorporate various movement qualities. Moving beyond Contemporary 1, this intermediate course also begins to explore movement with momentum and movement moving in and out of the floor. Basic concepts of improvisation are incorporated into the class.

Ballet 3

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): instructor's consent or by audition.

Upper-intermediate level. Ballet 3 is an intermediate/advanced and advanced level eclectic style ballet technique class designed for the serious and skilled dancer. Emphasis is placed on phrasing, musicality and complex neuromuscular patterning, leading to a further and advanced/pre-professional understanding of ballet as a discipline of dance.

Contemporary 3

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): instructor's consent or by audition.

A continuation of Contemporary 3, upper-intermediate level. Students work to refine technique and to incorporate various movement qualities, concepts and principles while also enhancing artistry and performance. Moving beyond Contemporary 2, this advanced course also explores a more rigorous approach to movement with momentum and movement moving in and out of the floor. Improvisation is also explored in the class.

Ballet 4

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): open to Junior and Seniors ONLY.

Advanced level continuation of Ballet 3, which emphasizes pre-professional technique, performance quality, and college preparedness.

Contemporary 4

Repeatable for credit.

Prerequisite(s): open to Junior and Seniors ONLY.

Advanced level continuation of Contemporary 3. Emphasizes pre-professional technique and performance quality.

FILM

Introduction to Film Studies

Film and English credit

Available to grades 10, 11, and 12 (9th graders need Administrative Approval)

This course will help students understand the production of film and introduce them to it in a way that will teach them how to study and analyze it as they would any piece of literature. We will examine, study, and analyze mise-en-scène, editing, sound, the narrative structure in film, and the history of film from the birth of cinema to the present day. By the end of this course, the students will have an extremely strong foundation in the study of film and an understanding of filmmaking techniques and cinematic language.

Honors Film Genre and Theory

Film and English credit

Prerequisite: Introduction to Film Studies (may take concurrently with Introduction course with approval)

This course builds on Introduction to Film Studies and will push the students to dive even deeper into the study of film. Many aspects and knowledge taken from the prerequisite course will be utilized to help the students analyze film while looking at film genre and film theory. In this course, the students are expected to decipher how genre affects the viewing of a film and in what way it fits into the study of film (genres studied: documentary, the Western, drama, horror, science fiction, comedy, fantasy, film noir, and cult). Furthermore, the students will examine, comprehend, analyze, and evaluate several film theories (Marxist, feminist, reception, and auteur) and apply it to the study of film. By the end of the course, students should have an even stronger foundation of film studies, in which they can dissect films in a much greater capacity.

Film Production 1 and 2

Prerequisite: Introduction to Film Studies (may take Film Production 1 concurrently with Introduction course with approval)

This is a hands-on course to help students better understand and learn the language of cinema and many filmmaking techniques. The student will use the knowledge acquired in Honors Introduction to Film Studies in several collaborative and individual assignments where a wide range of techniques will be used along with filmmaking equipment to help the student become familiar with using a camera, integrating sound, constructing the proper lighting, and utilizing editing software. The student will have full access to Adobe Creative Cloud and film equipment for the entire process. By the end of the course, the student will have a basic understanding of the following: how to write a film treatment, screenplay, and shooting script; pre-production planning; going through the production process; and how to navigate and complete a film through post-production with an aesthetic goal in mind. Film Production 2 is an extension of the first course and is more of an independent study for the students involved (along with guidance from the instructor).

Cinematography

Prerequisite: Introduction to Film Studies and Film Production 1

This course will build on the techniques you have learned in your production classes. We will utilize technical hands-on assignments, watch films, and read books and articles to gain a further understanding of cinematography. We will explore different types of shots, angles, camera movements, composition techniques, as well as specific camera settings including shutter speed, white balance, aperture and iso. After learning these, we will look at how to effectively use these techniques for a variety of projects. What we learn in class will culminate into two larger projects throughout the year, a commercial/interview in semester 1 and a short film in semester 2.

MUSIC

Music Appreciation

Semester course

This class is a study of influential Eastern, African, European, and American music from the 19th century to the present day. It will include basic listening and writing skills. Students will be required to research, listen to, and write about various topics related to music.

(No prior musical experience or interest is required)

Building Instruments

Semester course

Students will be constructing and/or finding various types of instruments as well as learning the basic physical aspects to how sounds are produced. Projects may include building chimes, stringed instruments, and wind instruments out of materials found in the everyday home.

Students will be required to use basic hand tools such as a hammer, screwdriver, etc.

(No prior musical experience or interest is required)

Music Theory

This class covers topics such as tonal harmony (major and minor scales), rhythm, dictation (transcribing what you hear), intervals, chords, and modes. Students will learn the fundamental skills necessary to successfully read, write, and hear/analyze music in treble and bass clef.

Introduction to Improvisation

Improvisation exists in all kinds of music from jazz to classical to rock/pop to Indian music. This is an interactive class where students will learn some of the historical significance of improvisation in various genres of music as well as developing some ways to get better at improvising themselves on their instrument.

Piano Lab

This course teaches piano performance and music reading from the very beginning/intermediate level and is intended for students with no musical experience. Students learn basic finger patterns along with the elements of musical notation, working through various books to develop facility and skill at the keyboard. Students will leave the course able to read music in treble and bass clefs and play major/minor scales as well as all 4 triad qualities in all 12 keys.

Some of the repertoire covered in this class will feature works from master pianists/composers such as Bach, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, and Thelonious Monk to name a few. Each student will receive assignments in piano technique, piano etudes/songs, and piano literature from all the major style periods (European Classical, Blues, Jazz, Latin, Pop, Rock, and Funk).

Guitar Lab

This is an introductory study of the guitar. This course covers basic hand technique, note reading, scales, open-position chords, and beginner-level songs.

Rhythm Lab

This class is open to drummers, mallet percussionists, and all other instrumentalists. Rhythm does not only pertain to percussionists! The course will develop a strong understanding of the fundamentals and ability or interest to improvise. Students in this class will be expected to develop the following skills:

- learn and or be exposed to all 26 American drum rudiments via Charlie Wilcoxon's books.
- develop 4 way coordination.
- learn to groove, improvise and play on different melodies, song forms and meters.

Vocals & Horns Lab

This is a skills class open to any wind instrumentalist or vocalist. The lab will provide instruction in sight singing/reading and learning new music. Students in the Vocals and Horns Lab will be required to learn new music, sight-sing/read new music, and perform in front of peers. Along with learning vocal and instrumental skills, students will be able to play piano or guitar to learn their music or even accompany themselves.

Strings Ensemble

Students in Strings do not need to demonstrate any prior knowledge of music in order to qualify for the class. The only prerequisite for Beginning Strings is interest and the ability to follow directions. Students in this class will be expected to develop the following skills:

- how to hold and generally handle their instrument
- how their instrument is tuned, and how to tune it
- how to hold the bow and play up and down bow strokes
- how to learn music by ear
- how to read and play basic rhythms (whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests)
- how to read and play the notes of the staff
- basic understanding of tempo and time feel
- how to play the notes on their instrument in tune
- know the instruments of the string family and how they are tuned
- basic understanding of music theory (octaves, major and minor, scales, and arpeggios)

Folk & Blues Ensemble

Intro level ensemble. Students develop fundamental skills through learning the tradition. The folk and blues ensemble focuses on learning basics through the study of traditional songs.

Chorus

Skills and Ensemble Class. Open to all students, the chorus is an ensemble where we will practice and perform music of varying genres, including, but not limited to: American music, world music, popular tunes, jazz, and traditional music. This is the opportunity to work on your collaboration skills and learn to sing in a group, as well as hone skills to become a successful musician, particularly in voice, including sight-reading and ear training. Students will be required to perform with the class during recitals.

Electronic Music Production

Electronic music comes in all sounds, colors, and textures. This class deals with music production, recording, beat making, sampling, composition and improvisation utilizing both acoustic and electric instruments via different apps and programs like Garageband, Logic and Ableton.

Classic Rock & Pop Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory

Students learn technique, song form, chord progressions, improvising, and rhythm through the study of classic rock.

Music Composition

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory

Students will write and teach their own music to their classmates. No boundaries stylistically.

Chamber Music Ensemble

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble and Music Theory

Intermediate/Advanced

This course is open to intermediate or advanced wind, string, and percussion players who can read music and know the fingerings and embouchure for their particular instrument. This is not a class for beginning instrumentalists, as there are numerous performance responsibilities scheduled throughout the year, including

public concerts, exchange concerts, and festival trips, at which attendance is required. Members are also eligible to audition for regional and state honors music festivals, including Allstate, Jazz Allstate, and The Kennebec Valley Festival.

Jazz Ensemble

Advanced course

Audition only

Prerequisite: Folk & Blues Ensemble, Music Theory & Ear Training

This honors class will focus on the great tradition of American classical music, which is called jazz and blues. This includes the works of artists such as Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, and Thelonious Monk, among others. Students will be required to improvise and read music, including melody and chord changes.

THEATER

Introduction to Acting

Level I

Intro to Acting is composed of two parts. The first semester will consist of an overview of theatre as an art form. Students will learn theatre history, theatre practice, and see performances on video. The second semester will focus on theatre games, improvisations and some text work to explore different aspects of acting.

Intermediate Acting

Level II

Prerequisite: Introduction to Acting

This is a rigorous, step-by-step approach to learning the craft of acting. Using the Meisner Technique, students will learn truthful behavior, given circumstances, listening and responding, action, meaning, and emotional preparation. We will also focus on voice/ speech work, and movement. Second semester will focus on acting scenes from plays.

Playwriting

Level II, III, IV

Prerequisite: Introduction to Acting

This class will explore the craft of dramatic writing with a focus on the playwriting process. Playwriting skills will be developed by reading and analyzing different genres of plays, as well as developing characters, generating stories, use of language, plus analysis and revision. Students will write a short play in each semester.

Honors Advanced Acting

Level III, IV

This class will explore the craft of dramatic writing with a focus on the playwriting process. Playwriting skills will be developed by reading and analyzing different genres of plays, as well as developing characters, generating stories, use of language, plus analysis and revision. Students will write a short play in each semester.

Honors Directing

Level III, IV

Prerequisite: Intermediate Acting

Directing Class will encompass the entire directing process from script analysis, conceptual work, rehearsal

prep, rehearsals and production. Rehearsals will focus on staging, working with actors and collaboration with designers. The first semester will focus on directing theory. In the second semester, the students will each direct one short play.

Production

Levels I, II, III, IV

Students who take Production Class take part in both school plays, one each semester. Auditions will determine which students get featured roles, which students get supporting roles and which students will get technical or design assignments. If you take this class, you agree to abide by the casting decisions. Students will be graded on attendance and meeting line-learning deadlines.

VISUAL ARTS

Introduction to Visual Arts Studio

Semester course

In this course, you learn about the process of making art in many forms, including drawing, painting, printmaking, digital imaging, sculpture, clay, metal, and fiber. You explore art by learning about other artists and discovering your own original ideas. You will also discover present-day artists creating artwork in your community. Some of the activities that students enjoy the most are jewelry making, collage art, and the freedom to explore various art mediums in new ways. It is important to have a framework for analyzing a work of art. We will use an evaluation process that helps you understand a work of art and artist intention and see beyond “liking” or “not liking” art. By the end of this course, you will be able to use the visual elements and principles of design to discuss and analyze artwork, leading you to a deeper understanding of the art.

Foundations of Art

This course is open to all students, and no prior art experience is necessary. The focus of the course will be the elements and principles of art, art history, and communication through art. Students will explore the basic elements of art: line, shape, value, space, color, form, and texture, and be able to apply the fundamental principles of design in their artwork. Students will create a variety of projects while exploring the use of various art media. Students are encouraged to explore personal style and creativity. Creative problem-solving and the creative process will be highlighted. A focus is placed on traditional drawing techniques such as rendering techniques, perspective, figure/portrait drawing, fabric/draping drawing, backgrounds/landscapes, color theory, etc. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Beginner Photography

This course introduces you to a variety of different aspects of photography. This includes topics such as portraiture, landscape, abstract, fashion, photojournalism, and more. You will also learn about lighting, composition, and framing techniques, basic posing, and a brief history of photography. By the end of this course, you will be able to take photographs that follow proper composition and exposure rules. Unlike other photography courses, this course will introduce you to the manual exposure mode on our cameras early on, this will give you the ability to be more specific about your artistic choices when taking your photos.

Advanced Studio

Students with special interest and ability in art, who are dedicated to showing their works publicly, will have an opportunity and be encouraged to work in depth to create original works of art. Emphasis will be placed on the student’s ability to initiate, explore, and execute ideas in a series of works to show work and the capacity to bring work to completion. There will also be a focus on self-branding and how to promote artwork to a specific audience. This course will require students to be available outside of school hours to attend artist receptions,

and gallery opens. This course may be used to fulfill portfolio requirements for college admissions.

Graphic Design

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

Students are introduced to the basic principles of graphic design. We will explore typography, logo design, page layout, color theory, software (Adobe), design theory and practices, terminology, printing, and many other elements. Students will go through the design process by creating thumbnail sketches, tight sketches, and final art (both traditional and digital). We work on real-world projects and team up with other pathways to create visuals for their programs. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Illustration

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art

If you enjoy visual storytelling, drawing, and working with color, then join us in illustration class. We work on the basic elements of illustration (color, layout, and design, creating a visual message, and improving your drawing abilities with a few one-day drawing challenges). The class is dedicated to real-world assignments (book covers, album covers, storyboarding, editorial, and character design). A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Advanced Photography

Prerequisite: Beginner Photography

This course will build on the techniques you learned in beginner photography, with an emphasis on portrait photography. After doing a refresher on manual exposure, we will dive deeper into exposure and framing techniques specific to portrait photography and apply these to different genres that fall under the genre of portraiture. Through the course, you will learn how to apply these techniques in different settings, this will be done through different scenarios, such as mock weddings and events. You will work with partners or groups to create professional headshots and individual and group photos, both indoors and outdoors. You will also learn about the business side of photography by creating contracts and invoices, learning how to set your rate, and how to work with both pleasant and unpleasant clientele.

Advanced Graphic Design

Prerequisite: B average or higher in Foundations of Art and Graphic Design, a graphic design portfolio

Advanced Graphic Design will explore deeper the understanding and application of graphic design. This fast-paced class will push students to design and develop advertising campaigns, stationery packages, product labels (working with the advanced illustration students), web design, info and environmental graphics, fonts, movie/theater posters, title/motion design, etc. Each designer will take turns running a studio as an art director and creative director, leading the team(s) through projects by creating budgets, overseeing responsibilities, meeting deadlines, client contact, and presentations. This class is for those serious about graphic design and who are thinking about going to school to continue their education or going into the field after MeAA. You must maintain a professional-looking portfolio.

Advanced Illustration

Prerequisite: B average or higher in Foundations of Art and Illustrations, an illustrations portfolio

Advanced Illustration will allow illustration students to fine-tune their visual storytelling skills by working on real-world assignments. Being an illustrator is more than just knowing how to draw, paint, and compose an illustration for a client. You must juggle multiple projects at once, quote and budget your time, due client contact, and meet very tight deadlines. Assignments include commercial illustration (product characters),

caricatures, illustrating for the foreign/overseas market, fashion design, animation and game character design, and a second-semester book project. Each project will require the illustrator to keep track of their time and submit timesheets, work within budgets, follow detailed specs, meet strict deadlines, client contact, and present their final art. In the second semester, we write and illustrate a book project (comic, graphic novel, comic strip, or picture book). Traditional and digital skills are a must. This class is for those serious about illustration and who are thinking about going to school to continue their education or going into the field after MeAA. You must maintain a professional-looking portfolio.

Business for Professional Artists

Advanced course

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art and two other visual arts courses

This is an honors upperclassman Visual Arts course. This is an art school and the last thing we are going to produce is starving artists! In this course, students will create their very own art business and learn about the fundamentals of entrepreneurship. Students will learn about contracts, copyright law, bookkeeping, self-promotion, writing proper emails and cover letters, developing promo pieces, doing mock interviews, public speaking, and many other art business-related practices. A portfolio is required at the end of the year.

Miscellaneous

Academic Skills

This course is a requirement for all incoming Freshmen. This course aims to help students build a pathway to academic success at the high school level. Students will be exposed to a variety of academic skills, vocabulary, and procedures that can be applied across all subject areas throughout all four years of high school. Topics include getting to know oneself as an academic learner, study skills; note-taking, outlining, academic writing, educational concepts employed by teachers in the classroom, public speaking, and peer review. In addition, this course will discuss educational philosophies, adolescent psychology, diet and sleep cycles, learning styles, learning environments, conflict resolution, and communication skills.

Health

Semester course

This course will provide students the tools to practice life-long health skills. Over the course of the semester, we will learn about nutrition, physical, social, and mental health; learn the difference between chronic and infectious diseases; and learn how to base current and future decisions on the topics of drugs, healthy relationships, alcohol use, and safe technology practices. We learn effective coping strategies. This class will incorporate and encourage many different forms of learning from the reading of scientific texts and novel excerpts, writing, film, open discussions, projects, art, music, meditation, and mindfulness. Students will learn that healthy behaviors and choices are in their hands and will be provided with an arsenal of tools to help make the best choices.

Stretching & Conditioning

Semester course

In this class we will be doing pilates, yoga, kickboxing, zumba-style fitness, plyometrics, chair fitness, hiking, meditation, and more. This is a fitness/exercise class, so students should always arrive prepared to move and sweat. We also will cover the knowledge-base of basic muscular anatomy. Bringing a change of clothes, shoes, socks, etc. is required to participate in this class.