

Upper Division Course Options for Rising 6th–10th Grade Students 2021–22

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6th Grade

Arts

We will offer three arts options for students in grade 6: Visual Arts, Instrumental, and Singing. We ask that you and your child rank your preferences. We cannot guarantee placement in a particular option, but we will do our best to match students with their top choice.

Visual Arts

Visual Art students will gain a deep understanding of the artistic process and the cultural and historical role of visual art. They practice a wide range of foundational techniques through investigation of 2D and 3D materials, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture and digital art and design. In addition, students reflect on and think critically about their process, craftsmanship and completed projects. Interdisciplinary project work is also a significant part of the studio arts curriculum, helping students become confident makers both in the studio and academic subject areas.

Music: Singing

For students who want to sing! Vocal students will explore a variety of styles including popular music, musical theater, a cappella, jazz and rock. Students will once again experience the joys and benefits of singing together, in small groups and solo. Part of the selected repertoire of songs they sing in class will draw on the themes, settings and time periods they are studying in other subject areas such as world courses and language. This interdisciplinary approach makes their musical experiences even more meaningful and helps them make connections between music and other subjects. This is a performance-based class. While there is no audition required, students must demonstrate a strong commitment to performing.

Music: Instrumental

For students who play an instrument and want to be part of an ensemble. In instrumental music, students will play music in a variety of styles (rock, jazz, world music, classical and folk). Instrumental students will also work on music theory and practice reading music and will learn to improvise and compose their own original music. This class is open to all instruments including piano and guitar. One required weekly group lesson for brass, wind, string and percussion players will be provided for those who are not taking private lessons.

High-Intensity Practice (HIP)

All middle grade students will be enrolled in HIP. Next year, however, we also hope to pilot HIP sections for grade 6 that will be offered in three languages:

- HIP English 6 (taught and conducted in English)
- HIP Chinese 6 (taught and conducted in Chinese)
- HIP Spanish 6 (taught and conducted in Spanish)

Note that Chinese and Spanish sections will be taught and conducted entirely in the target language, and so demonstrated proficiency through coursework and other criteria is required. Students should submit their ranked preferences for their top two sections. We cannot guarantee placement in a particular section, but we will do our best to match them with their top choice. Below is a course description that applies to all three sections.

HIP Thinking brings the concept of high-intensity practice together with engaging math, writing, and coding challenges in order to develop in students the cognitive flexibility that underlies advanced problem solving, creativity, and critical thinking. Lessons are built around a 20–30 minute period of focused and deliberate practice and aim to develop one or more aspects of the eight Avenues Thinking Elements—empathy, creativity, critical thinking, metacognition, reasoning, mental agility, abstraction, and planning. As students progress through grades 6–10, they gain a greater sense of their own areas of strength and growth and a better understanding of themselves as learners across the disciplines.

Options Available to Rising 7th-Grade Students

Arts

We will offer three arts options for students in grade 7: Visual Arts, Instrumental, and Singing. We ask that you and your student rank your preferences. We cannot guarantee placement in a particular option, but we will do our best to match students with their top choice.

Visual Arts

Visual Art students will gain a deep understanding of the artistic process and the cultural and historical role of visual art. They practice a wide range of foundational techniques through investigation of 2D and 3D materials, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture and digital art and design. In addition, students reflect on and think critically about their process, craftsmanship and completed projects. Interdisciplinary project work is also a significant part of

the studio arts curriculum, helping students become confident makers both in the studio and academic subject areas.

Music: Singing

For students who want to sing! Vocal students will explore a variety of styles including popular music, musical theater, a cappella, jazz and rock. Students will once again experience the joys and benefits of singing together, in small groups and solo. Part of the selected repertoire of songs they sing in class will draw on the themes, settings and time periods they are studying in other subject areas such as world courses and language. This interdisciplinary approach makes their musical experiences even more meaningful and helps them make connections between music and other subjects. This is a performance-based class. While there is no audition required, students must demonstrate a strong commitment to performing.

Music: Instrumental

For students who play an instrument and want to be part of an ensemble. In instrumental music, students will play music in a variety of styles (rock, jazz, world music, classical and folk). Instrumental students will also work on music theory and practice reading music and will learn to improvise and compose their own original music. This class is open to all instruments including piano and guitar. One required weekly group lesson for brass, wind, string and percussion players will be provided for those who are not taking private lessons.

Options Available to Rising 8th Grade Students

Math in 8th Grade

Starting in 8th grade, we offer two different math options: Math 8 General and Math 8 STEM. Math placement is determined by prior student performance, placement assessments, and math teacher recommendations, in addition to student interest.

Arts

We will offer three arts options for students in grade 8: Visual Arts, Instrumental, and Singing. We ask that you and your student rank your preferences. We cannot guarantee placement in a particular option, but we will do our best to match students with their top choice.

Visual Arts

Visual Art students will gain a deep understanding of the artistic process and the cultural and historical role of visual art. They practice a wide range of foundational techniques through investigation of 2D and 3D materials, including drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture and digital art and design. In addition, students reflect on and think critically about their process, craftsmanship and completed projects. Interdisciplinary project work is also a significant part of the studio arts curriculum, helping students become confident makers both in the studio and academic subject areas.

Music: Singing

For students who want to sing! Vocal students will explore a variety of styles including popular music, musical theater, a cappella, jazz and rock. Students will once again experience the joys and benefits of singing together, in small groups and solo. Part of the selected repertoire of songs they sing in class will draw on the themes, settings and time periods they are studying in other subject areas such as world courses and language. This interdisciplinary approach makes their musical experiences even more meaningful and helps them make connections between music and other subjects. This is a performance-based class. While there is no audition required, students must demonstrate a strong commitment to performing.

Music: Instrumental

For students who play an instrument and want to be part of an ensemble. In instrumental music, students will play music in a variety of styles (rock, jazz, world music, classical and folk). Instrumental students will also work on music theory and practice reading music and will learn to improvise and compose their own original music. This class is open to all instruments including piano and guitar. One required weekly group lesson for brass, wind, string and percussion players will be provided for those who are not taking private lessons.

Options Available to Rising 9th Grade Students

Math in 9th Grade

In 9th grade, we offer two different math options: Math 9 General and Math 9 STEM, which share a curriculum but differ in purpose—see the Mathematics section of [2021–22 course catalog](#) description for additional information. Math placement is determined by a combination of placement assessments and math teacher recommendations in addition to student interest.

Art in 9th grade

In 9th grade, we will offer two arts options: Visual Arts and Performing Arts. All students are eligible for both courses and placement will be determined through a student preference survey. You and your child can find detailed course descriptions in the student dashboard. In the meantime, we wanted to quickly note the high-level similarities and differences between these courses.

Similarities

- both allow for in-depth study of the creative process and work toward the same overarching learning goals
- both allow for interdisciplinary units in conjunction with other classes
- both will satisfy a student's arts requirement

Differences

- Visual Arts will use visual media and processes (including 2-d, 3-d and digital arts) to meet the goals above. Students also research art history strands and contemporary trends, identify questions, sketch, experiment and create original works of art reflecting on and documenting their process throughout.

- Performing Arts will use performing arts media and processes (including voice, instrument and movement) to meet the goals above.

Options Available to Rising 10th Grade Students

Math in 10th Grade

In 10th grade, we offer two different math options: Math 10 General and Math 10 STEM, which cover the same topics, but differ in purpose—see the Mathematics section of the [2021–22 course catalog](#) description for additional information. Math placement is determined by a combination of placement assessments and math teacher recommendations in addition to student interest.

Art in 10th grade

In 10th grade, we will offer three arts options: Visual Arts, Design and Engineering and Performing Arts. All students are eligible for both courses and placement will be determined through a student preference survey. You and your child can find detailed course descriptions in the student dashboard. In the meantime, we wanted to quickly note the high-level similarities and differences between these courses.

Similarities

- All courses allow for in-depth study of the creative process and work toward the same overarching learning goals
- both allow for interdisciplinary units in conjunction with other classes
- both will satisfy a student's arts requirement

Differences

- Visual Arts will use visual media and processes (including 2-d, 3-d and digital arts) to meet the goals above.
- Design and Engineering will engage in a series of projects that develop foundational skills such as design thinking, the use of use of digital and traditional tools and technologies such as computer-aided design (CAD), laser cutting and engraving, 3D printing, woodworking and metalworking and computational thinking through modern computer programming languages.
- Performing Arts will use performing arts media and processes (including voice, instrument and movement) to meet the goals above.