

## PERFORMING ARTS

Art establishes the basic human truths, which must serve as the touchstone of our judgment.

- John F. Kennedy

The arts provide one of the essential and basic languages that extend the range of communication. Through this language we express our fears, dreams, curiosities, hopes, and discoveries. Such expression is a central force in human existence. Literacy in the arts for all students centers on the idea that each of the arts functions as a tool for creative expression as well as for the development of higher order thinking and problem solving skills.

All students are required to successfully complete one (1.0) credit of creative arts. However, many colleges and universities require two (2.0) credits for admission. All sophomores must take either the Music Appreciation or the Art Appreciation class to fulfill one-third of their arts requirement. Students may indicate a preference for one course or the other, but final assignment to either course will be based on availability and individual schedules. Students with an interest in both areas may take both art and music appreciation, thereby fulfilling an additional arts requirement.

**Students who plan to elect the arts as a college major or career choice are requested to identify themselves as ARTS MAJORS to their guidance counselors for scheduling purposes. The students should use the information below to guide them in course selections for their appropriate major.**

### **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMING ARTS MAJORS:**

Dance	All majors are expected to audition for Dance Company each year and participate fully in performances and spring musicals. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Mrs. Dombrowski or Miss Gris�.)
Music	Voice majors: must elect concert choir or show choir for four years Instrumentalists: must be a member of the orchestra for four years Recommended courses: Music Theory (honors), Music History (honors)  All voice majors are expected to audition for all musical productions. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Mr. Martone or Mr. Miele.)
Theatre	All Theatre majors are expected to audition for all musical productions and the Winter play. (Majors need to discuss course selections with Mr. Martone.)

### **DANCE**

Dance classes fulfill the PE requirement for grades 10-12.

#### **SOCIAL DANCE - COLLEGE PREP**

#6401	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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This course will explore the evolution of social dance and its impact on American culture. Students in this course will be introduced to important movements in social dance from 1900 to the present day. Some movements that are explored throughout the term include: Waltz, Swing, Salsa, and Hip-Hop. This course is intended for the beginning dance student and requires no previous dance training.

#### **BEGINNING TAP - COLLEGE PREP**

#6403	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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This dance course is designed to introduce the student to basic tap technique and terminology. Students in this class will be introduced to basic rhythm structure, articulation, and timing. This course is intended for the beginning dance student and requires no previous dance training.

**TAP II - COLLEGE PREP**

#6405	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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Prerequisite: Beginning Tap or instructor's permission

This course is a continuation of the Beginning Tap course and will introduce the students to intermediate level technique, including rhythm structure, articulation, timing and additional styles.

**JAZZ - COLLEGE PREP**

#6407	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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Prerequisite: Previous dance training

This course will provide the opportunity to learn more about jazz technique, terminology, and style. Students will also explore the area of choreography and create their own pieces.

**DANCE STYLES - COLLEGE PREP**

#6409	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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This course is designed to introduce the beginning student to several dance genres. Upon completion of the course, students will have a basic knowledge of tap, jazz and ballet fundamentals. No previous dance training is required to participate.

**MPS DANCE COMPANY - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB**

#6420	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
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Prerequisite: Audition required

Dance Company is a course designed to strengthen and improve the work of the already trained dancer through in-class work and performance opportunities. The main emphasis of the course is to improve the technical performance of the dancers in several different dance genres. Other aspects such as choreography, terminology, and dance history will also be incorporated. As a member you will have the opportunity to travel to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Acceptance into the Dance Company is by audition. Placement of students into the divisions of the Mercyhurst Dance Program is determined by the instructors based on the students' abilities. All interested students should sign up for course #6420. They will be placed in the appropriate course after all auditions are completed. The dance company divisions include:

- Dance Company (Master)
- Dance Company (Master) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Advanced)
- Dance Company (Advanced) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Intermediate/Advanced)
- Dance Company (Intermediate/Advanced) – Honors/IB
- Dance Company (Apprentice/Intermediate)
- Dance Company (Apprentice/Intermediate) – Honors/IB

## MUSIC

### **MUSIC APPRECIATION - COLLEGE PREP**

#6601 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course, designed for the casual listener, is a study of music from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Students will also learn to recognize the basic elements of music through listening and the study of the fundamentals of music.

Note: All sophomores must take either the Music Appreciation or the Art Appreciation class to fulfill one-third of their arts requirement. Students may indicate a preference for one course or the other, but final assignment to either course will be based on availability and individual schedules. Students with an interest in both areas may take both art and music appreciation, thereby fulfilling an additional arts requirement.

### **MUSIC HISTORY – HONORS/IB**

#6604 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

A detailed study of the history of music from its origins to the twentieth century, this course is designed for those students who have an interest in pursuing a major in music. This course is recommended for those students fulfilling the IB music curriculum.

### **MUSIC THEORY – HONORS/IB**

#6606 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This course is designed for both the student with a strong interest in music and the college bound music major and covers such fundamentals of music as scales, intervals, and how to write chords. The class is beneficial to any student who sings or plays an instrument and wants to know the basics of how to understand or write his/her own music. A student does not need any previous musical experience to take this class.

### **MUSIC FOR THE MUSIC MAJOR - COLLEGE PREP**

#6615 Junior, Senior .33 credit Term Course

Prerequisite: Approval of the instructor.

This course is designed for the junior or senior student who is serious about pursuing music as a major at the collegiate level. The goal by term's end is to give the student an introduction to various concepts they will be studying in college. Beginning theory and ear training, music history, and conducting will be among the skills studied.

### **MUSICAL PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP**

#6607 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

Prerequisite: Audition required

Musical production is a one-term course which will produce the fall musical (last year the class presented a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*). The students will learn blocking, vocals, and some movement. The class will also be expected to rehearse after school and perform in the fall.

### **BEGINNING PIANO - COLLEGE PREP**

#6609 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior .33 credit Term course

This class is designed for the beginner only who has always had an interest in playing the piano or had a few lessons early on but never pursued playing. The class is set up for individual one-on-one instruction; therefore, there are no public performances required in this class. The student is graded on his/her personal performance progress. Access to a piano at home is not a requirement.

Materials: You will need to purchase the Glover Adult Piano Book

**ADVANCED PIANO - COLLEGE PREP**

#6611	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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Prerequisite: Beginning Piano or previous piano training

This piano class is designed for the advanced pianist or a student who has completed the Beginning Piano class and wishes to continue the study of the piano. The objectives that will be achieved include correct posture and finger position technique. This class also provides individual one-on-one instruction. Access to a piano at home is not a requirement.

Materials: personal or assigned piano book

**BEGINNING GUITAR - COLLEGE PREP**

#6613	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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This introductory course is for the first-time player who would like to learn the basics of acoustic guitar. Students will learn to read all of the notes on the guitar, basic guitar chords, and basic strum and pick patterns, guitar string maintenance as well as simple songs for beginners.

Materials: You will need access to your own **Acoustic Guitar** (6 string) & strap. An assigned guitar book will be provided.

**GENERAL CHORUS - COLLEGE PREP**

#6639	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
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Do you have an interest in singing but would never want to stand up in front of anyone and actually sing? Have you ever thought about being with a group of other students who feel exactly as you do? General Chorus is a class where such a thing happens. You would not only spend part of your school day singing, you would also learn some of the vocal techniques that might just take you farther along in singing than you ever thought you could go. This group would not be part of the mainstream choir programs at the school, but this class might just be the springboard you've needed to get you there. Come sing!

**CONCERT CHOIR - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB**

#6631-College Prep	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
#6632-Honors-IB			

Prerequisite: Vocal audition required

This is a course designed for any student with the desire to sing. The student will work on music in preparation for performances at MPS, the all-school liturgies and in the community. The student will learn correct techniques for posture, breathing, diction, tone production, and blend as well as how to read music. The music performed will encompass a variety of musical styles from the Renaissance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. . As a member you will have the opportunity to travel to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Prerequisite to participate in Concert Choir at the HONORS/IB level: The student must plan to be present for the after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternates between the History of Music & Music Theory.

**SHOW CHOIR - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS**

#6637-College Prep      Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior      1.00 credit      Yearlong  
#6638-Honors

Prerequisite: Dance & vocal audition required (Size limit: 14 students)

This course is designed to teach the student to combine the art of dance with singing. The student will be taught the basics of vocal technique, i.e., pronunciation, breathing, tone production, and memorization. Each student will also acquire independence in dance, individually being responsible for knowing his/her movement in relationship to others. This course also fulfills the physical education requirement for the current year for students in grades 10-12. The students will also have the privilege of traveling outside of the school to perform for various children, adult and Senior Citizen events in the Erie area. As a member you will be required to commit to paying for and traveling with the group to perform next March at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Prerequisite to participate in Show Choir at the Honors/IB level: The student must plan to be present for after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternates between the History of Music & Music Theory.

**ORCHESTRA - COLLEGE PREP or HONORS/IB**

#6643-College Prep      Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior      1.00 credit      Yearlong  
#6644-Honors-IB

Prerequisite: Incoming guitar, piano & percussion students need to audition. They need to contact Mr. Miele at mmiele@mpslakers.com .

This ensemble is comprised of competent instrumentalists who perform for liturgies, the school musicals and the Christmas and spring concerts. The objective of this course is to instill the abilities of blend, dynamics, balance, expression, and taking of directions in an ensemble setting. This course is for the student who owns or will rent an instrument and is active in playing that instrument. Some instruments may be borrowed from the music department if we have such on hand. The instruments that can be part of the orchestra are **all** of the woodwinds, brass, strings and percussion instruments including such "non-orchestra" instruments like the Electric Bass. The class is designed as an outlet for any students who play instruments here at MPS.

Prerequisite to participate in Orchestra I Honors/IB: The student must plan to be present for the after school IB sessions or scheduled IB classes in music. The honors students meet once a week after school to study the IB curriculum. The course content of the Music IB sessions alternate between the History of Music & Music Theory.

Size limit: the number of percussion, piano & guitar students.

**JAZZ BAND - COLLEGE PREP**

#6649      Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior      .33 credit      Term Course

Prerequisite: Guitar, keyboard & percussion students need to audition.  
They need to contact Mr. Miele at mmiele@mpslakers.com.

Students will learn the basics of performing jazz music with an emphasis on jazz style and improvisation. Any wind, percussion, keyboard, or guitar player is eligible to take this class. Due to the nature of the music, however, special preference will be given to brass and saxophone players.

Size limit: the number of percussion, keyboard & guitar students

**THEATRE/DRAMA**

**INTRO TO THEATRE AND ACTING - COLLEGE PREP**

#6825      Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior      .33 credit      Term course

This course introduces students to the world of Theatre & the craft of Acting, beginning with basic theatre terminology, plot structure and a basic introduction to acting through performance of scenes, monologues, and improvisation. If you have an interest in theatre, this course will prepare you to step in on the ground floor.

**ACTING I-STANISLAVSKY-COLLEGE PREP**

#6827	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	1.00 credit	Yearlong
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This course begins an in-depth study of the craft of acting by delving into Stanislavski's system. This class will build a solid foundation for scene interpretation, character development, preparation, and performance through practical, in-depth analysis and performances of scenes and monologues by applying the system developed by the father of modern acting, Konstantine Stanislavski.

**AMERICAN MUSICAL THEATRE - COLLEGE PREP**

#6807	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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This course studies the origins and development of a uniquely American art form, the Broadway musical. Students will study the history of this art form from Vaudeville to modern day musical. Up to ten different American musicals will be viewed and dissected for style, script, musical components, plot, characters, etc.

**TECHNICAL THEATRE PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP**

#6823 (term)	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33/1.00 credit	Term/Yearlong
#6821 (yearlong)			

Prerequisite: Students will gain admittance through interview or an email conversation with Mr. Martone

This class will be the production crew for our theatre productions. This course may be taken as either a term or yearlong elective. Content includes set design & construction; building materials; tools; set painting; lighting concept, design and implementation; learning our light system; audio design; and use of our audio board. If you ever wanted to take a shop class in High School then this is for you. The student **will** also be required to crew our public performances outside of the school day.

**MUSICAL PRODUCTION - COLLEGE PREP**

#6607	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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Prerequisite: Audition required

Musical production is a one-term course which will produce the fall musical (last year the class presented a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*). The students will learn blocking, vocals, and some movement. The class will also be expected to rehearse after school and perform in the fall.

**SPEECH AND DEBATE**

#2535	Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior	.33 credit	Term course
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The Speech and Debate course is designed to offer students interested in enhancing their skills in presenting an argument and oral interpretation. In class, students will prepare for competitions in the Erie Catholic Forensic League and the National Speech and Debate Association that occur throughout the season. Those taking the course will perfect their approach to their selected event in which they will compete. The goal is to gain skills that will help students in other academic pursuits, including writing skills, research tools, and public speaking. Students who take the course are expected to participate in the various CFL and NSDA events during the year.