



NOVATO
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

NOVATO HIGH SCHOOL

Academic Planning Guide

AND

Course Catalog

2024 – 2025



WELCOME TO NOVATO HIGH SCHOOL



Welcome to the Novato High School community. We are very proud of our school and are thrilled to have you become part of the hive! Our academic programs are engaging and designed to challenge and inspire you to think and be excited about your future. Our extracurricular programs are numerous, popular, and student-led. Our teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches, and staff are here to build a relationship with you to help you explore your identity, passion and purpose! Together we are going to create a magical high school experience for you. Beinvenidos.

All of the components of Novato High School are highlighted in this Academic Planning Guide. You will want to read it carefully. It is designed to help you make accurate and meaningful decisions regarding your high school career and future goals. We constantly update this handbook, and post it on our school website to reflect the most current data. Please check novatohigh@nusd.org for the most accurate information available.

The key to making your Hornet Experience alive for you is “INVOLVEMENT.” We encourage all students to get involved in the variety of activities, sports, and community service activities that Novato High School offers. Please use our website to keep up to date with all things NHS and it will give you access to teachers’ email addresses, a school calendar, and the AERIES Parent Connect, the most effective method for parents to access a student’s grades and records.

We have identified our purpose in one sentence:

*Novato High fosters a creative and inclusive community
where we work together to learn, grow, access experiences,
and create our own authentic paths.*

We are a community committed to YOU! We make personal connections with every student, provide an arts enriched environment for all students, AND create a school community to launch our students into their future with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to be their wonderful selves. Use this guide with that goal in mind and know that we welcome you to choose your own adventure among the exciting courses we offer. Graduation is the end game....how each student makes their way through, is our goal to support, support, support. Have a wonderful and authentic adventure.

Table of Contents

Novato High School Purpose Statement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Profile Learning Outcomes	.....	5
Academic Planning and Four Year Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course requirements for graduation Diploma and diploma alternatives California college information College admissions information	.....	6
Academic Information & Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Placement Courses <i>Additional work information for AP Courses</i> On-line & Collegiate & Concurrent Enrollment Credit Recovery Academic Grading Athletic Eligibility Community Service	.....	11
Counseling Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counselor Student Caseload Assignments Making Counselor Appointments Course Scheduling Process Course Add/Drop Policy	.....	15
Registrar Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transcripts New Student Enrollment Withdrawing from School	.....	17

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS

English		22
English Language Development	.....	25
Mathematics	.....	28

PHYSICAL EDUCATION	.....	31
Social Studies		
VAPA via Marin School of the Arts		

Novato High Purpose & Student Learning Outcomes

Our Purpose:

Novato High fosters a creative and inclusive community where we work together to learn, grow, access experiences, and create our own authentic paths.

Student Learning Outcomes and Graduate Profile:

NHS students will graduate with these skills:

Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active, mindful participant • Commitment and accountability to the group • Provide and accepts feedback/constructive criticism • Interpersonal communication • Understanding value of collaborative outcomes • Strives to promote learning and achieve common goals (Defines Collaboration) • Flexibility and open mindedness • Conflict management skills • Building consensus within a group 	Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written – essays, letters, email, job applications, resume • Oral – One to one, to each other, presentations • Listening – active listening, receptive to new ideas • Digital Literacy – how to evaluate sources, how to use resources, how to choose resources, > where will digital footprint end up • Non-verbal – read audience, read body language • Respectful – tone, volume, taking turns, being present while listening 	Critical Thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative problem solving/solution finding • Constructing arguments • Curiosity/questioning/inquiry • Information & discovery • Reasoning • Interpretation and analysis • Self-Regulation/reflection • Resourcefulness • Understanding multiple perspectives
Conscientious Learner (Self-Management) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritization/organization/time management • Goal Setting • Self-advocacy/Initiative • Self-reflection/self-awareness • Curiosity • Health and wellness • Career awareness • Financial literacy 	Cultural Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity • Global Awareness – understand various viewpoints, lifestyles, and cultures • Ability to build working relationships with people from other cultures and backgrounds • Respecting and understanding diverse perspectives • Bilingual/bi-literate/multicultural • Contributes to solutions that benefit the larger community • Civic engagement 	Character <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empathy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Ability to understand and share the feelings of another • Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Quality of being honest and having strong moral principles • Respect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Showing honor or esteem for someone or something • Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Growth Mindset • Perseverance/Resilience

High School Four-Year Planning

Our expectation is that every student will graduate from high school with a plan for their next steps post-graduation. Completing the coursework necessary for graduation is important as classes are being selected each year. The following chart outlines the high school graduation requirements in each of the subjects listed.

Our school purpose is for all students to explore all of our courses that provide a clearer understanding of a student's identity, purpose, and passions moving forward in life!

GRADE 9 FRESHMAN	GRADE 10 SOPHOMORE	GRADE 11 JUNIOR	GRADE 12 SENIOR	CREDITS REQUIRED
ENGLISH 9	ENGLISH 10	ENGLISH 11	ENGLISH 12	ENGLISH - 40
College and Career Readiness (5 credits) & Health (5 credits)	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES	SOCIAL STUDIES - 30
MATH	MATH	MATH	MATH ELECTIVE	MATH - 30 Alg. 1 Req.
SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE	SCIENCE ELECTIVE	SCIENCE - 30 One biological, one physical and one science elective
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	All students in grade 9 are required (Education Code 51225) to enroll in and successfully complete the physical education (PE) course and to satisfactorily pass at least five out of six fitness areas of the California Physical Fitness Test administered in grade 9 (<u><i>Education Code 51241</i></u>). All students are required to pass a second year of physical education in grades 10, 11, or 12.			PHYS.ED. - 20
ELECTIVE OR WORLD LANGUAGE 20 credits- 10 must be visual or performing arts OR CTE OR Language Other Than English OR vocational OR practical arts.	ELECTIVE OR WORLD LANGUAGE	ELECTIVE OR WORLD LANGUAGE	ELECTIVE OR WORLD LANGUAGE	FINE ARTS or WORLD LANG. ELECTIVES

				Another 50 credits of electives are required for graduation.
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA - A diploma is earned by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Earning a minimum of 220 credits in required areas, and ✓ Meeting the Algebra 1 content standards. Modified Diploma- 130 Credits: California law (AB 167) allows for an adjustment of the credits REQUIRED for graduation from California public high schools, targeting foster care youth, homeless youth, a military family youth, a migratory child or newcomer program participant, as well as juvenile court school pupil (after the second year of high school for AB 2121).				

High School Equivalency Diploma

- **General Education Development (GED) Test**

General Educational Development (GED) offers a high school equivalency diploma to students who pass a series of tests in Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics. Employers and colleges accept the GED tests as the equivalent of a high school diploma. Tests are given in each subject area and students must pass **all** of the subject area tests in order to earn a GED Equivalency certificate. Test preparation programs are available through College of Marin or NUSD Adult Ed.

To be eligible to take the General Education Development (GED) Test, **a student must be:**

- ✓ 18 years of age or within 60 days of his/her 18th birthday
- ✓ within 60 days of when he/she would have graduated had he/she followed the normal course of study and stayed in school
- ✓ At least 17 years of age, has been out of school for 60 consecutive days, and provides a letter from the military, post-secondary educational institution or prospective employers.

College Entrance Information

Understanding what classes and credits are needed for high school graduation is the first step. Admissions to a university system is the next important consideration when deciding what classes to take each year of high school. The following outlines UC and CSU entrance requirements:

COMPARISON OF NHS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS with CSU/UC ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS			
Subject	NUSD Graduation Requirements	Cal State University <i>Minimum grades of 'C'</i>	University of California <i>Minimum grades of 'C'</i>
SOCIAL STUDIES	30 units – 3 years	A. 2 years – World History and US History	

ENGLISH	40 units - 4 years	B. 4 years	
MATH	20 units - 2 years*	C. 3 years/6 semesters of mathematics (including or integrating topics covered in elementary algebra, two- and three-dimensional geometry, and advanced algebra)* (Also acceptable are courses that address the above content areas, and include or integrate: probability, statistics or trigonometry.) Students applying to CSU and UC must complete a geometry course (or integrated math courses with geometry content).	
LABORATORY SCIENCE	30 units - 3 years Biological Science – 1 yr. Physical Science – 1 yr. Science Elective - 1 yr. .	D. 2 years (3 recommended) Biological Science – 1 yr. Physical Science – 1 yr. One of the above must be from the “d” subject area with the other from either “d” or “g” - Refer to “a-g” course list.	D. 2 years (3 recommended) LIFE (Biology) – 1 yr. Physical Science – 1 yr. (Chemistry or Physics) Courses must include at least two of the three core disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics; both from the “d” subject area
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH	<i>Recommended but not Required</i>	E. 2 years (3 recommended) - Must be same language	
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS	20 units - 2 years**	F. 1 year Selected from music, theater/drama, or visual art	
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	20 units - 2 years (***)		
HEALTH and CCR (College & Career Readiness)	10 units – 1 semester each		
ELECTIVES	50 units	G. 1 year - Selected from any of the areas on the approved a-g course list, excluding those designated as non-elective (lower level math, language other than English, or visual & performing arts)	
TOTAL UNITS OR REQUIREMENTS	220 units	✓ 15 college prep courses from approved “a-g” list ✓ Calculate GPA using only “a-g” approved courses taken after the 9 th grade	
		✓ New SAT I or ACT (SAT-May combine best writing, verbal & math scores from multiple sittings; ACT-writing test not required)	✓ SAT I or ACT ✓ SAT II (Not required for all majors- check with school) (Best SAT I total score from a single sitting)

*Courses must be passed with a C- or better to meet college entrance requirements

PSAT, SAT, ACT EXAM calendars and registration materials will be provided by Counseling Office.

NHS transcripts do not reflect SAT, ACT, or AP exam scores. When submitting college and/or scholarship applications, seniors are reminded to **have scores sent directly to colleges by the College Board and ACT.**

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP - The PSAT/NMSQT test serves as an initial screening of more than one million entrants each year. Semifinalists are the highest scorers in each of the 50 states and represent less than one percent of each state's high school seniors. Finalists may be considered for the \$2,500 scholarship. Students are expected to continue their education beyond high school. California has a three-tiered system of state-financed universities and colleges. Many consider this system to be the nation's best public higher education network.

California College Opportunities

University of California (UC)	California State University (CSU)	Community Colleges (CC)
www.universityofcalifornia.edu	www.calstate.edu/apply	www.cccco.edu
Top 12.5% of high school graduates	Top 33% of high school graduates	Top 100% of high school graduates or 18 years of age
Background: The UC system combines the education of undergraduates with a strong emphasis on graduate programs and world-class research in the sciences & Humanities.	Background: The CSU system emphasizes undergraduate Education, leading to a Bachelor's, Master's and a limited number of Doctor's degrees.	Background: Colleges offer a wide range of academic and vocational programs leading to an occupational certificate, a two-year associate of arts degree, or a transfer program
Students: Over 220,000	Students: 430,000	Students: Over 2.9 million
Costs: Including Fees/Tuition, \$14,050, Books & Supplies \$1,198, Campus Room & Board, \$6,131, Miscellaneous approx. \$3500 Total \$26,493	Costs: Including Fees/Tuition, \$11,519, Books & Supplies \$1,200, Campus Room & Board, \$11,514 Miscellaneous, \$2,260 Total \$26,493	Costs: Including Fees/Tuition, \$46 a unit: 12 units a semester=\$552
Entrance Requirements: Top 12.5% of high school graduates statewide or other criteria; 15 prescribed courses and appropriate admission tests	Entrance Requirements: Top third of high school graduates statewide or other criteria; 15 prescribed courses and appropriate admission tests	Entrance Requirements: Open to all California residents, including those without a high school diploma. A California resident may attend a community college anywhere in the state.
Campuses: 10	Campuses: 23	Campuses: 112

Campus Locations: Berkeley, Santa Cruz, Davis, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Irvine, Merced, Riverside and San Diego. The San Francisco campus specializes in upper division and graduate health Sciences.	Campus Locations: Bakersfield, Chico, Channel Islands, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Maritime Academy, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San José, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma and Stanislaus.	Campus Locations: Throughout California.
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ACADEMIC INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

Advance Placement (AP) Courses

Advanced Placement courses are comparable to college level courses. These courses demand students have an interest in the subject and are willing to invest time and effort into course preparation. Please keep this in mind when registering for one or more Advanced Placement course(s). Students should commit to these courses for the year. Dropping AP courses is strongly discouraged and may adversely affect the student's academic transcript.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses must use curriculum outlined and audited by the College Board. AP Classes allow high school students to undertake college-level academic rigor and provide an opportunity to take the AP Exams. Students may receive credit from many colleges and universities. NHS transcripts do not reflect AP exam scores. When taking these exams or submitting college and/or scholarship applications, seniors are reminded to **have scores sent directly to colleges by the College Board.**

Any student who is determined to have economic disadvantages, as defined in Education Code 52241, who is enrolled in an Advanced Placement course, may apply to have the costs covered of Advanced Placement examination fees minus eight dollars, which shall be paid by the student (Education Code 52244). See your student's counselor for more information.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSE INFORMATION

Course	Enrollment Information	Outside School Year Work	Other Information
AP Literature and Composition	12th grade students only	Summer reading assignment expected	

Community College / Online Course

Only courses pre-approved by a student's NHS counselor and administrator will be accepted for NHS graduation credit. You must get approval before you register for the class. This includes courses that students are taking for personal growth and not credit. Only pre-approved courses will be posted to a student's transcript. Students must obtain their counselor's signature on the community college "Special Admission for High School Students" form in order to register for a community college class as a high school student. Students must allow at least one school day for the processing of this paperwork at NHS.

Concurrent High School & College Course Credit

Students in the district may avail themselves of the opportunity to earn credit toward graduation for successful completion of courses taken in a community college, state university, state college, or accredited private college. Courses may be taken on a collegiate campus or virtually through an independent study offering.

All courses must be pre-approved by the student's counselor and school administration. Such credit may be granted only under the following conditions.

- The student must get approval for credit from the current high school and community college prior to enrolling in the course.
- The course must be in a subject included in the district's areas of study (Ed. Code 51220): English, Social Sciences, World Languages, Physical Education, Science, Mathematics, Visual and Performing Arts, Applied Arts, and CTE courses
- Students may not enroll in a college course for high school credit if a similar course is offered during the current year at the student's high school, except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Principal.

Credit Recovery

Students must consult with their counselors prior to enrolling for **summer school** at **another public or private school** or for an **on-line course**. Students should be aware that some NHS and on-line courses do not meet NCAA eligibility rules and UC/CSU approval.

Academic Grading

The following outline is a broad, policy-based overview of grading at Novato High School. Each individual teacher will have a more specific explanation of their approach to grades in their course syllabus. All teachers in NUSD are required to use a proficiency-based approach to grading and this will be explained further in their syllabus. For general questions, please contact your student's counselor (see next section for information).

GENERAL GRADING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Careful, impartial, and consistent observation and measurement of the quality of the students' learning
2. Mastery of course content and standards and the degree to which course outcomes are achieved
3. Classwork, projects, course assignments, tests and other evidence of student learning

Student behavior shall not be factored into a student's academic performance except as it relates to participation or in completing and turning in assigned work. Students and parents shall be notified about performance and progress both formally and informally. Formal reports of student progress are communicated in accordance with Policy 5124. The grade given to each pupil shall be determined by the teacher and, in the absence of a clerical or mechanical mistake, fraud, bad faith including non-compliance with Policy 5124 or incompetence, shall be final.

LETTER GRADES OF A, B, C, D, F are used to report class performance with the corresponding point values: A = 4. B = 3. C = 2. D = 1. F = 0. Grades earned in Advanced Placement courses in grades 10-12 shall carry weighted grade points only as follows: A-5, B-4, C-3, D-1, F-0 (BP 6141.5) An **Incomplete**, (I) is given only when a student's work is not finished because of illness or some other excused absence or student and teacher have agreed to provided additional time to meet standards. If the work is not made up within six weeks, the incomplete will be replaced with an F (BP 5121). For purposes of eligibility for participation in extra and co-curricular activities, an incomplete shall have no effect (Policy 6145). *Note: The Marin County Athletic League treats an incomplete as an "F" grade, until the work is made up.*

GRADE POINT AVERAGE:

Grade Point Average (GPA) has two different calculations for our grades. Academic GPA is computed using point values assigned to all classes except Physical Education & Health. Overall GPA is computed using all classes, including Physical Education & Health, are used for athletic eligibility and is reported on semester report cards.

GRADE REPORTS: Final Grades will be posted on Aeries approximately one week after the end of each grading period. Only semester grades are recorded on student permanent records and transcripts and reflect work completed throughout the entire semester. Grades are mailed home upon request.

Academic Honors at NHS: The honor of Distinguished Scholar will be awarded to all students meeting the criteria outlined in the Distinguished Scholar Formula. The formula for determination includes, but is not limited to, a non-weighted GPA, and the total number of AP and Honors classes that a student has taken during their entire four years in high school. This honor will take the place of valedictorian and salutatorian and bear the same weight in recognition.

Athletic Academic Eligibility

The following information is outlined in **NUSD Board Policy 6145.1**

In order to participate in athletics, **students must earn a 2.0 “C”** grade point average on a 4.0 scale in all enrolled classes.

- ✓ Students must be enrolled in and pass a minimum of 20 units (4 classes).
- ✓ Spring semester grades count for eligibility on the first day of practice including for incoming freshmen.
- ✓ See the Athletic Director in advance for specific information about making up grades during summer school.
- ✓ One academic probation period (one grading period) may be authorized over the four years in high school by the Superintendent or designee for students to participate in athletics whose GPA is between 1.5 and 1.99. Academic eligibility resets the second Tuesday after grades are turned in for each grading period (4 times per year).
- ✓ Students must reside in the Novato Unified High School District, or have an approved inter-district transfer, and abide by the school district’s policies for residency.
- ✓ Freshmen are ineligible for athletic probation except when waived by the Principal under very exceptional circumstances.

Follow these instructions to register for sports at NHS.

- Step 1: Go online at <https://novatohigh.nusd.org> OR <http://www.novatohighathletics.org/>
- Step 2: Complete Physician's Clearance Form AFTER June 1, 2021 - Download the Physical Form off the website.
- Step 3: Register for all sports you intend to play for the year. Fall 2022 registration begins in April – May 2021
- Step 4: Register and complete the Impact Baseline Concussion test once per academic year.
- Step 5: Sign up for our Newsletter and Follow us on Twitter to stay in the know!

COACHING STAFF and TEAM Information are linked on the website.

<http://www.novatohighathletics.org/#/>

<https://sideline.bsnsports.com/schools/california/novato/novato-high-school>

Community Service Hours

Novato High School students are encouraged to engage in formal and informal community service.

- Community service guidelines and applications, as well as suggested community service areas of need can be obtained in the through the College and Career Specialist.
- Students who engage in and complete pre-approved and formally documented community service hours through the College and Career Specialist can elect to have those hours documented on their official Novato High School transcripts.

COUNSELING SERVICES

COUNSELING STAFF

Counseling Technician:	Marina Pena @ mpena@nUSD.org
Registrar/Transcripts:	Victoria Wertz @ ywertz@nUSD.org
Counselor - for Students last name A - E:	Marie McMahon @ mmcmahon@nUSD.org
Counselor - for Students last name E - L (+ ELD):	Oscar Galdamez @ ogaldamez@nUSD.org
Counselor - for Students last name L - N:	Debbie Hagan @ dhagan@nUSD.org
Counselor - for Students last name N - S (+ ELD):	Ade Melgoza @ amelgoza@nUSD.org
Counselor - for Students last name S - Z (+ AVID):	Kristen Bligh @ kbligh@nUSD.org
School Psychologist:	Arezu Iranipour @ airanipour@nUSD.org

We are available to assist you in the following areas:

- *Placement in academic classes according to ability and interest*
- *Career and vocational information and planning*
- *College entrance and scholarship information*
- *Test score interpretation and information*
- *Grade and transcript information*
- *Recommendations and references*
- *Parent, student, and teacher concerns or other personal issues*

Student Appointments

- Come to the Counseling Office before school, after school or during lunch.
- Fill out a **“Request to See” form** to your counselor in the Counseling Office.
- If it is urgent, please bring it to the attention of the counseling technician, or the counselor, if she/he is available.
- Counselors will send passes out for students for specific appointments during the day.
- Please keep in mind that the counselors are available at lunch and before and after school on a first come-first serve basis.

Parents may contact the Counseling Office, for appointments or other concerns, between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. at (415) 898-2134. Parents may also call and be connected with the appropriate counselor's voicemail.

NOTE: Parents visiting or calling our school may ask for an interpreter.

NOTA: Los padres que necesitan alguien que les traduzca esta carta en español por favor de llamar a la escuela.

Course Scheduling Procedures

COURSE REGISTRATION: The counseling department at NHS will facilitate a comprehensive enrollment program for all students for the following school year. Each student will be individually scheduled for those classes that the student, parents, and counselor have selected as suitable for meeting the needs of the student. It is crucial that students are thoughtful during the course selection process as changes may be impossible after the initial scheduling period as courses fill up. This “partnered decision-making process” will ensure that the correct classes are selected, both mandatory and elective, and that all high school graduation and/or college entrance requirements are fully completed. Counselors are available for assisting parents and students in making appropriate decisions based on their post-graduate plans.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE COURSE REGISTRATION MATERIALS: Counselors will complete a schedule for each student, and will ensure that the proper classes are selected. The electives chosen will be determined by what is available, not necessarily what the student would have chosen.

COURSE SCHEDULE CHANGES: To provide students with the best opportunity to take courses that interest them, the master schedule is built around student choices. Staffing is based on these choices, so student schedules cannot be changed. **Therefore, students must select courses carefully! Schedule changes WILL NOT be made for the purpose of requesting specific teachers or specific periods.**

Student or parent / guardian initiated changes will only be made for one of the following reasons:

1. Duplicate classes, incomplete schedule or class already completed.
2. Students are inappropriately placed in a core class, non-elective.
3. Medical condition documented by a physician.

All course change requests are to be completed by the end of the 10th day of each semester.

Course Add/Drop Deadline Policy

Course drops will NOT be permitted after the 10th instructional day of each semester.

- Students who change classes prior to this 10-day period will carry their “grade to date”, attendance and discipline records to the new class to be included in final grade computation.
- For courses dropped after the twenty-day period, students’ records are subject to all or some of following actions: failing mark on transcript (F), loss of credit and/or notice of withdrawal on transcript (W).

Exemptions to the 10 day rule:

After the 10th instructional day, an Add/Drop Form must be completed along with a student/counselor/teacher meeting. This team will determine the best course of action to support the students' learning success. The counselor will then contact the student’s parent and review the course of action.

- ☐ Holidays, non-student days, weekends are not included in the first 10-day count for instructional minutes/classes.

Teacher initiated course changes may be made only up to receipt of the 1st progress report of the semester, providing that the change involves no other disruption in the student’s schedule and is approved by the new teacher.

REGISTRAR SERVICES

Novato High School Registrar, Victoria Wertz, may be reached through email at ywertz@nUSD.org

TRANSCRIPT ORDERING & FEES: Unofficial student transcripts are available on Aeries. Official transcripts for current students may be obtained from the NHS Registrar, in the counseling office; there is a two-day processing period. Students are responsible for mailing costs. Alumni requests for transcripts are \$5.00.

New Student Registration

- Entering 9th graders applying from NUSD schools will receive registration paperwork during the Winter/Spring of their 8th Grade year, during their 8th Grade Counseling sessions at their middle school.
- All students from outside the District need to complete a high school registration packet. Parents wishing to enroll their student at Novato High School will need to contact the Registrar, in the Counseling Office to pick up a registration packet.
- Key documents parents will need to show are: all immunization records, birth certificate/passport/visa, and two proofs of residency (BP 5111).
- After the packet is complete, please call the Registrar's office (located in the Counseling Office) to make an appointment to review the paperwork at (415) 898-2133.
- Once all packet information is complete, a counseling appointment will be made where students meet with their counselor and create a class schedule.

School Withdrawal Information

Parents needing to withdraw students from Novato High School need to notify the Counseling/Registrar's Office.

- The Parent/Legal Guardian must sign a withdrawal form in the presence of the registrar.
- The student will be given this withdrawal form to take with them on the last full day of attendance at Novato High School.
- The student will take this form to all of their classes to obtain the teachers' signatures and a withdrawal grade.
- The Librarian will issue a "clearance" signature when all textbooks and Library books are returned.
- The student will be given a copy of the withdrawal form, a copy of their unofficial transcript, and immunization records to be taken to the transferring school.

Failure to comply with this procedure will delay the release of transcripts, immunization records, and all other pertinent documentation.

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

The courses offered at Novato High School are listed in this guide by department. All courses marked with UC/CSU meet the requirements for acceptance to the University of California and California State Universities with a grade of 'C' or better. All courses meet the grade-level standards set forth in the *California Common Core State Standards*.

GRADE 9 COURSE OUTLINE

The following matrix outlines the courses students in their first year of high school are enrolled in. Electives/ World Language and AVID are all possibilities during a student's first year at Novato High.

Course Title or Department	HS Graduation & UC/CSU	Notes
ENGLISH	Fulfills both: UC/CSU "B"	All grade 9 students are enrolled in English 9
MATHEMATICS	Fulfills both: UC/CSU "C"	Course determined by 8th grade math course
SCIENCE	Fulfills physical or biological science and UC/CSU "D"	Most grade 9 students enroll in Physics. See other Science pathways page 30
COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR) HEALTH	Fulfills graduation requirement. CCR is UC/CSU "G"	See course descriptions below
PHYSICAL EDUCATION: PE 1	Fulfills one year of PE graduation requirement	All grade 9 students must be enrolled in PE
ELECTIVES/ WORLD LANGUAGE/AVID/VAPA	<i>Please use this guide to consider possible electives for the remainder of a 9th grade schedule</i>	

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS (CCR)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9- required for all Grade 9 students with Health

HS Graduation requirement: 5 Elective credits (Semester course)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

This one-semester course is designed to help students learn and practice valuable skills to help them to be career and college ready. Students will demonstrate their understanding of career paths through a variety of assessments, projects, job simulations, speeches research assignments, online portfolio, and essay papers. Students will identify academic interests, skills, values and personality types, research employers and industries, gain experience with public speaking and interview skills, familiarize themselves with college

and job search tools, strengthen writing skills, learn goal setting, solidify research techniques, and write a research paper utilizing correct MLA format.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 9

HS Graduation requirement: 5 Elective credits (Semester course)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*

This is a one semester course designed to empower students with the knowledge necessary to make decisions to enhance the quality of their lives and their relationships with family and others. An emphasis will be placed on helping students learn about healthy living and avoidance of behaviors that place them at risk.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH 9

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 9

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

Students read and respond to historically and culturally significant works of literature, analyzing in depth the structural features and literary devices of various genres, especially fiction and drama. Students also write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument, using clear, precise language. Essays include narrative, response to literature, exposition, persuasion, business letter, and technical documentation. Students develop research skills and write a research paper using MLA format. Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions, and write using generally accepted manuscript form. They also do extensive work in vocabulary and independent reading.

ENGLISH 10: World Literature

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 10

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant literature that complements their study of world history in the sophomore year. Throughout the year, students continue to develop their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Grade 11 English Courses

ENGLISH 11: American Literature

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant literature that complements their study of American history in the junior year. There is an initial focus on the pre-Colonial and Colonial experience, the young republic, and the nineteenth century. The focus then shifts to the study of twentieth century American

literature. During the second semester, there is a synthesis written project students complete. Throughout the year, students read independently and study vocabulary and English conventions as they prepare for the PSAT and SAT tests for their college entrance examinations. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking continue to be important elements of student work.

AP ENGLISH 11: English Language and Composition

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

This course is for juniors who plan to take the AP test in Language and Composition in the spring. It follows the curricular guidelines of College Board and guides students to becoming skilled readers and writers of prose. Students read selected and significant works of nonfiction such as essays, memoir, speeches, primary documents and letters. Students collaborate and work individually to build awareness of elements of the rhetorical situations: audience, writer's purpose and exigence. Students build muscle and skill in process writing as well as on-demand writing in the three expository forms assessed on the AP exam: rhetorical analysis, original argument and research synthesis.

Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

ERWC 11 curriculum is developed by CSU for high school juniors who plan to attend college. The goal of the course is to prepare juniors for the literacy demands of post-secondary education. This course includes a variety of modules on high interest topics. Modules include multiple reading selections, often representing different genres and media sources. Course texts include contemporary essays, memoirs, articles, editorials, reports, interviews, memos, assorted public documents, scholarly studies, literature, and plays. Students will develop advanced proficiency in expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing.

Grade 12 English Courses

****English 12: Students may select from the following five English course options. ALL 12th grade courses integrate novels and focused essay writing each semester.**

FUTURES

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

Do you love science fiction? Are you interested in what our future will look like? If so, Futures is the class for you! We read classic books like *1984* or *Handmaid's Tale*, as well as modern books like *Ready Player One* and *The Martian*. We watch movies like *2001: A Space Odyssey* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. This class uses a mix of novels, movies, TV shows, and short stories to discuss and write about topics such as smart technology, space exploration, aliens, oppression, virtual reality, and Artificial Intelligence.

Expository Reading and Writing Course (ERWC)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

The goal of the Expository Reading and Writing Course is to prepare college-bound seniors for the literacy demands of higher education. Through a sequence of fourteen rigorous instructional modules, students in this yearlong, rhetoric-based course develop advanced proficiencies in expository, analytical, and argumentative reading and writing. The cornerstone of the course—the assignment template—presents a process for helping students read, comprehend, and respond to non-fiction and literary texts. Modules also provide instruction in research methods and documentation conventions. Students will be expected to increase their awareness of the rhetorical strategies employed by authors, and to apply those strategies in their own writing. They will read closely to examine the relationship between an author’s argument or theme and their audience and purpose, to analyze the impact of structural and rhetorical strategies, and to examine the social, political, and philosophical assumptions that underlie the text. By the end of the course, students will be expected to use this process independently when reading unfamiliar texts and writing in response to them.

FILM AS LITERATURE

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

Cinematic literacy is long overdue in education. Students enrolled in this course study film both as an art form and as a form of communication. They are taught to “read” a film, analyzing its narrative structure, genre conventions, subtext, technical and artistic factors, and purpose. In addition, students examine how films often reflect the times and conditions in which they are made, and conversely, how motion pictures sometimes help shape attitudes and values in society. Students will be motivated to view moving images critically rather than passively, as well as compare and contrast literature and film. This course will enhance the analytical and critical thinking skills of students.

MYTHOLOGY AND FANTASY

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

This course will examine the mythological roots of fantasy and supernatural literature. Students will apply themes in world mythology to modern works of fantasy and the supernatural. Classic literature, the Gothic horror story, and the modern fantasy series will be covered through a variety of media: drama, poetry, novels, and their film adaptations. Students will learn about the characteristics of these genres, do in -depth analyses of them, and write their own versions of fantasy tales in a variety of genres and media such as the short story, poetry, and video. This course develops the student’s skills in reading, thinking, and writing, listening, and speaking through in-depth study of literature in a variety of genres and through researching informational materials.

AP ENGLISH 12: Literature and Composition

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement B

This course is for seniors who plan to take the AP test in Literature and Composition in the spring. It follows the curriculum of the College Board. The focus is on British and modern world literature in a variety of genres and through researching informational materials. The course develops the student’s skills in reading, thinking, and writing, listening and speaking. Enrollment is required the previous spring, for students are given a

rigorous summer reading and writing assignment that is due on the first day of school. A consistently high standard of academic achievement is required.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The English Language Development (ELD) program is for students who are not proficient in English. The ELD program helps students master English so they can be successful in their other academic courses.

Students take placement tests to see what level they need and they take quarterly benchmark tests to assure they are ready for the next level.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Algebra Fundamental (English Learners)

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9 - 12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: No

Students in Algebra Fundamentals are newcomers to the United States who have had interrupted schooling. This math class will cover the basic math skills that lead up to Algebra. This course is taught in Spanish.

ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

Symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols are central in algebra. Through study of algebra, a student develops an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and the sciences. In addition, algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a wide variety of problem-solving situations. This course is the foundation for the rest of our math offerings. Passing this course is a graduation requirement (students may fulfill this graduation requirement in middle school).

GEOMETRY

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

This course is designed to teach the student the basic properties of polygons and circles, including area and perimeter/circumference. Surface area and volume of geometric solids are included. This course also includes the writing of deductive proofs in a geometric setting, and solving a variety of geometric application problems.

ALGEBRA 2

Prerequisites: Geometry

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

This second-year algebra course reviews the ideas and concepts taught in Algebra 1 and subsequently begins a serious investigation of advanced algebraic concepts including quadratic equations, systems of equations, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices and determinants, probability and statistics, and trigonometric functions. There is a placement assessment for any students who did not take Algebra 1 at NHS.

FINANCIAL ALGEBRA

Prerequisites: Geometry

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

This Financial algebra course revisits mathematical formulas, functions, and visual representations to help students comprehend the intricacies of the financial world and empower them to make informed financial choices. The topics covered include the Stock Market, business modeling, banking services, consumer credit, automobile ownership, employment, income taxes, independent living, retirement planning, and budget preparation. The curriculum adheres to the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Practice, as well as standards in Algebra and Statistics/Probability.

ALGEBRA 2 Plus

Prerequisites: Geometry w/ “B” or better & teacher recommendation

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

This rigorous, accelerated course combines Algebra 2 and Precalculus into one year of math for highly motivated students. Students build on concepts taught in Algebra 1 and do in depth exploration of advanced algebra topics such as polynomials, rationals, quadratics, logarithms, exponentials, systems of equations as well as learning about a variety of topics in analytical geometry and trigonometry. Graphing and understanding the characteristics of a wide variety of function types is a major theme of the class. The course is designed to deepen student understanding of algebra and geometry and prepare them for calculus.

STATISTICS

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

This introductory course in Statistics is designed to acquaint the student with the basic ideas and language of statistics, hypotheses testing, and providing students with the facility to process statistical information. Its emphasis is on concepts rather than an in-depth coverage of traditional statistical methods. Topics include: descriptive statistics, correlation and regression, elementary probability, binomial and normal distributions, and estimation and test of hypotheses. This course does not prepare students to take the College Board’s Advanced Placement Exam in Statistics.

AP STATISTICS

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

The Advanced Placement course in Statistics is designed to introduce students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. A college level course that covers the topics

delineated in the advanced placement course description booklet for the Statistics AP (Advanced Placement) examination. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement examination.

PRE-CALCULUS

Prerequisites: Algebra 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

Students in this course are preparing for the world of calculus. In order to become a student of calculus, pupils must understand coordinate geometry, graphing techniques, and trigonometric functions. Students must be able to use functions such as exponential, logarithmic, rational, and polynomial. They must understand sequences and series, vectors, limits, parametric and polar equations and be ready for an introduction to differential calculus.

AP CALCULUS (AB or BC)

Prerequisites: Pre-calculus

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement C

A college level course in differential and integral calculus that covers the topics delineated in the advanced placement course description booklet for the Calculus AP (Advanced Placement) examination. Students will be expected to take the Advanced Placement examination.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Mathematics (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

This course is designed to prepare the student for the real world use of numbers and their various functions in daily life and at the workplace. Students will learn about household finance, banking and measurements. This course serves as a second year towards the NUSD math requirement for graduation.

MEDICAL CAREERS PATHWAY Electives

This is a focused career oriented series of courses designed to prepare students for postsecondary study in the medical fields. Students who join the medical careers pathway will take four years of career technical education (CTE) classes that incorporate specific knowledge, language, and skills to build the solid academic and practical background necessary to pursue a career in medical career fields with a focus on Patient Care. NHS teachers in this program will serve as mentors throughout high school for students who co-enroll in challenging high school and college courses as well as to help students navigate internship opportunities in the region. Please note that year 3 and 4 MCP classes are College of Marin classes taught on campus and supported through a close partnership between NHS MCP teacher and the COM instructor.

Year 1 - MCP:

MCP INTRO TO MEDICAL CAREERS

Prerequisites: Application/interview encouraged for full MCP participation but all NHS students welcome.

Grade Level: 9 - 12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

This is a hands-on, project based lab based class that introduces to students to a wide variety of various health occupations including biomedical engineering, EMT, nursing, sports medicine, therapeutic services, dentistry, medical imaging, mental health, ophthalmology, speech therapy, pharmacology, and forensics. Students work in teams in a rotational model that mimics a job site and spend 70% of class time hands-on, engaged in “day in the life” activities with authentic medical equipment. Students will learn to recognize the integrated systems approach to health care delivery services: prevention, diagnosis, pathology and treatment.

Year 2 - MCP:

MCP MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

Prerequisites: MCP Intro to Medical Careers or teacher interview

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: 10 Elective Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

Medical Terminology is the 2nd “concentrator” career technical class in the Medical Career Pathway with a focus on understanding and using the language of medicine. This course teaches students to understand the language of healthcare (medical terminology) and medical abbreviations through a systems approach. Emphasis is on providing students with a thorough understanding of the terminology of body systems and their interrelationships. This course is offered to grades 10-12 with first priority to the NHS Medical Career Pathway student

Year 3- MCP:

MCP HEALTH SCIENCE OCCUPATIONS (1st semester) Course content is designed to solve the real-world problems that are required to understand the health care system through advanced knowledge & skills related to a wide variety of health occupations. Students will have ample opportunities to discuss the pros and cons of the professions. To pursue a career in the health science industry students should recognize, learn to reason, think critically, make decisions, solve problems, and communicate effectively. Students should recognize that quality health care depends on the ability to work well with others. The health science industry comprises several domains including diagnostic, therapeutic, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research & development systems that function individually and collaboratively to provide comprehensive health care.

COM Fire 215: Advanced First Aid/First Responder (2nd sem - COM class offered on campus)

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: No

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Gives college credit*

NHS is proud to partner with College of Marin to offer this Advanced First Aid First Responder course on campus spring semester with support from both the high school MCP teacher and the COM instructor. This hands-on course teaches the basic pre-hospital care skills needed to render care at the scene of an emergency until more highly trained emergency medical response personnel arrive. Includes basic anatomy and body systems; lifting and moving patients; airway management; patient assessment; medical, behavioral, and trauma emergencies; terrorism awareness; and an overview of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. This course is a prerequisite for the Emergency Medical Technician Program.

Final Year- MCP (two periods)

MCP Senior Seminar & Internship

Prerequisites: MCP Medical Terminology.

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: 10 Elective Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: PENDING application to meet a 'g' General Elective requirement.

MCP Senior Seminar & Internship is the fourth year in the Medical Careers Program pathway. Focus is on research and active engagement with area institutions that employ medical response and patient care technicians to build skills, experience and confidence necessary for entry level positions upon graduation. Seniors in the MCP program should take this class and enroll in COM Fire 112 to facilitate the creative scheduling and support required to set students up for success in the rigorous EMT COM class.

COM Fire 112: Emergency Medical Tech 1 (College of Marin class offered on campus)

Grade Level: 12 only - should be 18 by summer after course completion to take EMT exam.

HS Graduation requirement: No

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Gives college credit*

NHS is proud to partner with College of Marin to offer this EMT class on campus as a capstone to our MCP program. This course, taught by a COM professor on campus, provides 170 hours of instruction in the theory and skills required for the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT-1) scope of practice as defined in title 22 of the California Health and Safety Code, and eligibility to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) certification exam. 24 hours of supervised clinical experience with emergency ambulance providers and hospital emergency room is included. A health clearance, drug screening clearance, and a criminal background clearance are required by clinical agencies.

MCP Elective Courses:

SPORTS MEDICINE

Prerequisite: Biology

Grades Level: 11 – 12

Course Length: Year

HS Credits: Elective (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU Requirement: PENDING: Elective (g) *Application Pending*

This course introduces students to a career pathway in sports medicine, athletic training, or physical therapy. Topics covered in addition to Sports Medicine will be Injury Prevention, Emergency Care, CPR, First Aid Certification, Sports Nutrition, and Basic Rehabilitation, treatment of injuries to the foot, ankle, knee, hip elbow, shoulder, abdomen/spine and head. Activities will include field trips and observation, basic taping and treatment practicum, as well as professional speakers from the community. Teaching methods will include lecture, individual and group work/PBL, hands-on student learning (physically treating and taping an injured area), observing professionals in a working environment, and professional speakers to share experiences and guidance.

COLLEGE OF MARIN (COM) CLASSES: Depending on your interests—physical therapist, pre-med, physician assistant, dentist, registered nurse or radiology technician, your mentor will design a pathway of COM classes to accomplish those goals. Students can graduate with up to 18 units of credit from COM.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL COURSE ELECTIVES

ASB LEADERSHIP

Prerequisites: Interest in serving and competing the application Process

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

The Leadership class is built on the collaboration of students, staff and the NHS community working together to accomplish change and to make a difference that will benefit the common good at NHS. The purpose of this class is to serve students who want to develop their leadership skills to provide a vehicle for the organization and implementation of all student activities. Students will build the following leadership skills: organization, communication, conflict management and conflict resolution techniques. They will participate in team building activities, plan and implement student activities and learn time management skills. Students will work on the above aspects by taking active and visible roles in the Novato High community. The events/activities they plan will promote a positive, engaging and inclusive school culture.

This class is mandatory for all ASB and Class officers. Other students interested in this class will be appointed positions after the interview process.

Yearbook & Newspaper

YEARBOOK

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Yes – meets the 'g' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)*

Students accepted to this class are part of a staff that works together to write, design, and produce the Novato High yearbook. Students have opportunities to become proficient in InDesign, Excel and Photoshop, as they lay out, interview, photograph, sell advertising and edit a high quality yearbook. This course is open to students who are highly motivated and results oriented and willing to work independently and in small teams. We encourage students who have strong writing skills, enjoy photography, have good organizational skills, or a desire to learn to edit with InDesign to apply. Applications are available from counselors.

JOURNALISM 1 (Not offered in 24-25)

Prerequisites: Application & Teacher Interview

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Yes – meets the 'g' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)*

This course is **a prerequisite to become a reporter for The Swarm, Novato High School's newspaper.** This class will allow you to explore your interests and teach you how to present opinions and information throughout the community. Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information. In this class, you will become a reporter, a columnist, a broadcaster, an editor, an

editorialist, and a deeper thinker altogether. You will be finding the news on this campus, and presenting it in various forms.

*This class covers the basics of collecting credible sources, interviewing, news gathering, reporting, and writing, using social media properly and effectively, website promotion (personal Weekly sites), current events in Journalism, opinion and feature writing, as well as ethics and legal understanding of Journalism.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

AVID

Prerequisites: *Application and Interview (or previously enrolled in AVID, grades 8 – 11))*

Grade Level: 9th (GFC165 - AVID I); 10th (GFC175 - AVID II); 11th (GFC185-AVID III); 12th (GFC195 - AVID Seminar)

HS Graduation requirement: *Elective* (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

AVID students must enroll in courses that meet the University of California/California State University A-G college preparatory requirements.

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is offered as an elective course that prepares students for entrance into four-year colleges. There is an emphasis on analytical writing, preparation for college entrance and placement exams, study skills and test taking, note taking, and research. AVID meets five hours per week. Students receive two hours of instruction per week in college entry skills, two hours per week in tutor-led study groups, and one hour per week in motivational activities and academic survival skills.

In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading to support their academic growth. We will be working on test preparation. Preparation includes instruction in math and English language concepts frequently seen on college entrance tests, as well as practice on “mock” SAT® and ACT exams. In the ninth grade students are encouraged to take the PSAT® or the PLAN (Preliminary American College Test).

AVID students learn skills such as time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, and maintaining the AVID binder. Students are expected to maintain an organized binder, including an assignment calendar, class and textbook notes, assignments, and homework, which is graded regularly.

For Access, AVID students’ work with trained "avid" tutors. Tutors assist students in small groups with academic questions that students bring to tutorial. Students are required to take notes during tutorial and use class and textbook notes to inform their discussions during tutorial. Tutors help students with the process of learning through inquiry, rather than giving students the answers to their questions. Students learn the value of working with others in tutorial. In AVID, students also participate in motivational activities including college and career research, college and career outreach speakers, field trips to colleges and businesses and other educational opportunities in their communities, and service learning experiences. These activities provide students with the resources they need to learn about many positive opportunities available to them in the community that will impact their future.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*

PE 1 focuses on developing a lifelong commitment to health, fitness and wellness through daily activity. Students will participate in individual and dual activities along with projects and assignments that lead them to creating an individualized fitness plan. Students will also prepare for the ninth grade fitness exam.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 1 : Fit & Well

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*

Fit and Well is a 9th grade PE class that focuses on individual fitness and wellness. For the activity portion of the class, students will participate in non-team sport activities. Outside of the physical activity in class students will engage in wellness topics that include but are not limited to goal setting, stress management, nutrition, sleep habits and mindfulness.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 2

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*.

PE 2 focuses on fitness and wellness through participation in team sports and activities.

Beyond physical activity in the class, students will explore the connection between exercise and mental health. Students will understand the role of exercise and physiology and how they apply to long term benefits of an active lifestyle.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3 - WEIGHT TRAINING

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 10 - 12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*.

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight lifting concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiovascular endurance activities. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training and overall fitness training and conditioning. Course includes both lecture and activity lessons.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3 - DANCE or AAC405 Foundation Dance

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*

Dance PE will introduce a variety of dance styles that includes but is not limited to ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary and world dance. The focus of the course will be on the technical skills and strength needed to

successfully execute each style of dance. Student knowledge of the dance skills and technique is broadened through teacher presentation, guest artists, video and student research.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 3 - YOGA

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: *10-12*

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement: *No*

Yoga PE is an activity class designed to introduce students to yoga and build skills that encourage lifelong healthy fitness habits. The focus of the class will be to practice and improve the physical postures of yoga. Students will also be introduced to yoga philosophy and mindfulness practices. Student skill and knowledge will be developed through teacher instruction, projects, guest teacher and field trip(s).

INDEPENDENT STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION (ISPE)

Prerequisites: *None*

Grade Level: *10-12*

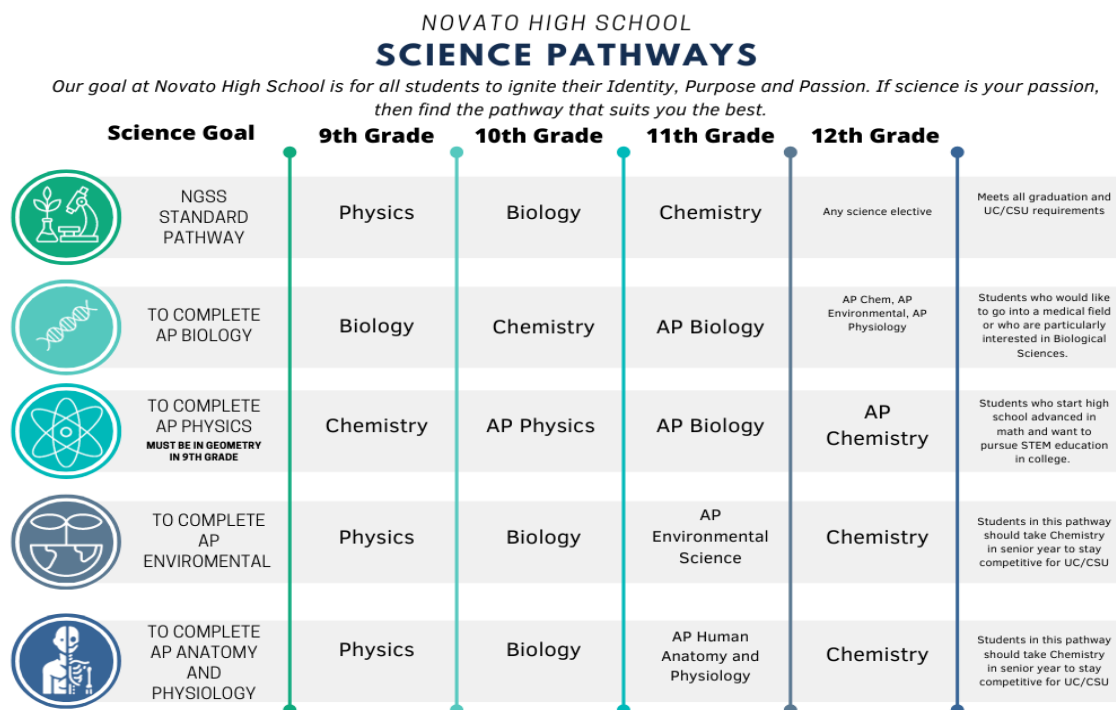
HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education (10 credits)

Enrollment in this course is determined by the administration.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Students can choose various Science course pathways based on their academic goals and personal interests. UC/CSU recommends a minimum of three years of science, and four or five years of science for Science/STEM majors. Novato High School's graduation requirement is three years of science, two years of physical science and one year of biological science. All courses listed meet the UC/CSU requirement of 'D' Lab Science.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT COURSE PATHWAYS IN SCIENCE AT NOVATO HIGH SCHOOL



Students are welcome to take one of the science electives concurrently with other science classes. Science electives include: AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, and AP Environmental Science.

NOTE: Chemistry is required for AP Biology and AP Chemistry.

PHYSICS

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D 'physical science'

Physics is a required laboratory science course designed to cover half of the NGSS content standards for physical science. Students are expected to be able to confidently and safely engage in scientific practices, collaborate effectively with others, manage multiple tasks in a timely manner and successfully perform

algebraic and graphic operations. Physics explores the relationship between matter and energy. Through various labs, the concepts of mechanics (including motion and forces), energy, waves, electricity and magnetism are brought to life. Also included in Physics are processes of the interior of the Earth and planetary motion. Elementary algebraic mathematics will be used at times to help students understand these ideas. This course is accepted as a laboratory science for college and university admissions.

BIOLOGY

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 10 -12

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D 'biological science'

Biology is a required laboratory science course designed to cover the NGSS content standards for biological science. Topics that will be covered are 1) Structure and Function, 2) Inheritance and Variation of Traits, 3) Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems, 4) Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, 5) Natural Selection and Evolution 6) Earth's Systems, and 7) The Earth and Human Activity. The curriculum includes the use of elementary algebraic mathematics. This class fulfills both graduation and university entrance requirements in laboratory science.

CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Algebra 1

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D 'physical science'

Chemistry is a college preparatory physical science laboratory course studying both academic concepts and their application to everyday life. Chemistry is a required laboratory science course designed to cover half of the NGSS content standards for physical science. The class covers the themes of atomic and molecular structure, chemical bonds, conservation of matter, chemical reactions, and nuclear reactions. Students are expected to confidently and safely engage in scientific practices, collaborate effectively with others, manage multiple tasks in a timely manner and successfully perform algebraic and graphic operations.

PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Biology and another Lab Science

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D 'biological science'

Physiology is a detailed study of the functions and structures of the human body. It is concerned with the gross structure, mechanics, and biochemistry of the body systems. Dissection of animal specimens is an essential part of this course. Human systems, with emphasis on sickness and diseases, will be discussed. This course will greatly prepare the student for future education in the medical sciences, as well as employment in the medical professions.

AP CHEMISTRY

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 and Chemistry

Grade Level: 11-12 (See AP placement criteria)

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D ‘physical science’

Advanced Placement Chemistry is designed as a first year college course. Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP exam. Great emphasis is placed on the activities of quantitative experimentation, observation, and interpretations as the basis of developing the concepts of chemistry. The major concepts covered in the course include: stoichiometry, atomic and molecular theory, qualitative and quantitative analysis of chemical behavior, thermodynamics, equilibrium, solubility, kinetics, acids and bases, and oxidation and reduction.

AP BIOLOGY

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Grade Level: 11-12 (See AP placement criteria)

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D ‘biological science’

Introductory college level course in Biology. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics like evolution, energetics, information storage and transfer, and system interactions. This course fulfills University of California lab science requirements. Students who pass the Advanced Placement test may qualify for college credit and/or placement.

AP PHYSICS 1

Prerequisites: Geometry and concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2

Grade Level: 9-12 (See AP placement criteria)

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D ‘physical science’

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study, in-class activity, and hands-on, inquiry-based laboratory work as they explore concepts like systems, fields, force interactions, change, conservation, and waves.

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Prerequisites: Two years of laboratory science

Grade Level: 10-12 (See AP placement criteria)

HS Graduation requirement: Science (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement D ‘laboratory science’

AP Environmental science students cultivate their understanding of the interrelationships of the natural world through inquiry-based lab investigations and field work as they explore concepts like the four Big Ideas; energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between different species and the environment, and sustainability.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Grade 10 Social Studies Courses

- Completion of either course satisfies NUSD graduation requirement and one year of UC/CSU social studies “A” requirement

WORLD HISTORY

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 10

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies – 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

This course examines the social, political and economic events that have shaped the modern world. Units of study include the rise of democratic ideas, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, Nationalism, Imperialism, the world wars, post-World War II struggles for democracy, global interdependence, and a survey of unresolved problems of the modern world.

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies – 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

AP European History introduces students to the role that European history since 1450 has played in shaping the world in which they live. The course will include: intellectual and cultural history, political and diplomatic history, and social and economic history. The course is the equivalent of an introductory college course in World/European History. This course can replace World History as a UC/CSU "A" requirement.

Grade 11 Social Studies Courses

- Completion of either course satisfies NUSD graduation requirement and one year of UC/CSU social studies “A” requirement

UNITED STATES HISTORY

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies – 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

In this course, students examine major developments and turning points in American history from the late nineteenth century to the present. The first semester will begin with a review unit of U.S. History from exploration through the Reconstruction Era. Subsequent units will focus in-depth study of U.S. History from the late 19th through the 21st century. As students learn American history, they will develop reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills that will enhance their understanding of the content.

AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

This course covers United States History from the pre-Columbian period through the Global War on Terror. It serves as preparation for the AP US History test offered by CollegeBoard each May. The course teaches and develops historical thinking skills such as contextualization, causation, comparison, augmentation etc. All sources are college level and the course requires multiple hours of work outside of class.

Grade 12 Social Studies Courses

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies – 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

This semester- long course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the three branches of one government, as well as their application at the federal, state and local level, with an in-depth understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the political process. Students develop the necessary skills to be educated voters. Students will take American Government one semester and Economics the other semester.

ECONOMICS

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies (5 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

This semester-long course is designed to give students a working knowledge of micro- and macroeconomics. Concepts studied are supply, demand, market price, entrepreneurialism, money and financial institutions, capitalism and other economic systems. Students will take Economics one semester and American Government the other semester.

AP MACROECONOMICS & COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies (10 credits: 5 for each course completed)

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

1. AP Macroeconomics is an introductory college-level macroeconomics course. Students cultivate their understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole by using principles and models to describe economic situations and predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data as they explore concepts like economic measurements, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies.
2. AP Comparative Government and Politics uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students analyze data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Social Studies – 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. Underpinning the required content of the course are several big ideas that allow students to create meaningful connections among concepts throughout the course. Students will also engage in skill development that requires them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments

SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

ETHNIC STUDIES: An Examination of Race in the United States

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective (10 credits) or US History requirement

Meets UC/CSU requirement A or G

Description: Ethnic Studies is a year-long course that investigates the local and national struggles confronted by communities of color throughout history. It introduces students to foundational concepts and methods for studying the impact that race and ethnicity have had and continue to have on the people and systems of the United States. Students study history, literature, music, and art through a sociological lens. The goal is for students to identify and understand why social inequalities in the U.S. persist and how these inequalities are distributed across racial lines. The emphasis will be on Indigenous Americans, Latinx Americans, African Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islander Americans.

PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisites: None

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement G

This elective course includes the study of human behavior including personality, dreams, Freud, major psychologists, abnormal behavior, abuse, prejudice, and discrimination. Students are expected to actively engage in class activities and discussion. The class explores emotions, stress, perceiving, sensation and different conceptions of intelligence. The students make oral and visual presentations and participate in a class field trip.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Prerequisites: Interest in taking a rigorous Advanced Placement course

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Elective (10 credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement A

This course introduces students to the rigorous expectations and advanced level of study expected in an AP class. Students will learn to use research methods and analytic tools to describe and understand how our social, economic, cultural, and environmental decisions impact our planet. Students will build skills demonstrating the ability to identify, describe, explain, and compare geographic concepts, processes, models, and theories. Specific topics of study include industrialization, cities and urban land use, agriculture and rural areas, population and migration. Issues of public health, gender, equity, and politics all are discussed. Course materials include maps, documentaries, and self-selected inquiry projects.

WORLD LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

SPANISH 1

Prerequisites: none

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: World Language (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement E

Spanish 1 is the first course of a four-year program that is designed for students with little or no exposure to the Spanish language. Speaking and writing will develop naturally as part of the learning process. Awareness and appreciation of the language and culture are an important part of the coursework. Students will learn basic vocabulary and begin to acquire mastery of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The fundamentals of morphology, syntax, pronunciation, and spelling are taught.

SPANISH 2

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 or similar

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: World Language (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement E

Students are expected to function in listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a proficient level in the target language. Year 2 begins with a review of Year 1. New vocabulary and an intermediate grammatical structure will be introduced. Idiomatic use of the language is emphasized in speaking, reading, writing and listening. Several past, present, and simple future tenses are introduced to enable students to communicate about past, present, and future activities. Stress is also placed on language comprehension.

SPANISH 3

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 2

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: World Language (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement E

Year three begins with a review of years 1 and 2. Advanced/intermediate vocabulary, grammar, syntax and idioms will be taught. An emphasis is placed on oral, auditory, and writing skills at an advanced/intermediate level. Authentic texts, audio clips, and film clips focus on the culture of the language. An increasingly sophisticated knowledge of the literature and histories of these cultures will be developed and students will present their findings through various media, which may include written reflections, video projects, and oral presentations.

SPANISH 4

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 3

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: World Language (10 Credits)

Meets UC/CSU requirement E

Spanish 4 is designed for the college-preparatory students who have successfully completed Spanish 3 and wish to further their Spanish studies. The course emphasizes conversational and grammatical skills at an advanced level. Students focus on the verbal and auditory aspects in a range of settings and situations for a variety of purposes. Cultural literacy and appreciation of Spanish and Spanish-speaking cultures is incorporated into the course work. The course is instructed in Spanish. Translation, reading, writing, and vocabulary are at an

advanced level. Extensive work in grammar and content, pronunciation, idioms, structure and analysis is the objective. The testing and assessment combines grammar and content, structure, and student performance.

AP SPANISH : LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 4

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: World Language (10 Credits)





Meets UC/CSU requirement E

AP Spanish Language is designed for the college-preparatory students who have successfully completed Spanish 4 and wish to further their Spanish studies. The course emphasizes conversational and grammatical skills at an advanced level. Students focus on the verbal and auditory aspects in a range of settings and situations for a variety of purposes. Cultural literacy and appreciation of Spanish and Spanish speaking culture is incorporated. Particular attention is paid to the teaching of advanced language skills in all areas (listening, reading, speaking, and writing). The course is instructed exclusively in Spanish. Translation, reading, writing, and vocabulary are at an advanced level. Extensive work in grammar and content, pronunciation, idioms, structure and analysis is the objective. The testing and assessment combines grammar and content, structure, and student performance. Sample full-length practice tests and review questions, plus an in-depth review of Spanish grammar and vocabulary are used to test the extent of the student's knowledge. This is a rigorous Spanish class that is designed for the advanced student who plans to prepare for Spanish AP exam and college-level work.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

via Marin School of the Arts

As an arts infused campus and home to Marin School of the Arts, we seek to provide ALL students with a broad scope of creative and artistic experiences. All art classes are now taught as part of Marin School of the Arts, an inclusive specialized arts program balancing access to arts for all students with rigorous college level arts instruction. There are three levels of art classes offered and explained in the chart below. Courses are listed in order of skill level for each discipline. All students are welcome to take an arts class designated with an “F” icon. Students enrolled in Marin School of the Arts are “majoring in creativity” and enroll in two periods of art. Students can apply to MSA as an 8th grader to secure a supportive transition to high school or at any point in their Novato High experience. More information about MSA and the admissions process can be found at <https://marinschoolofthearts.org>

	Foundational Level	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	CTE Course
Access	No Prerequisites; ALL students at Novato High can take as many foundation level art classes as their schedule affords and space is available to “explore” their creativity.	Students who passed Foundation Level and want to dive deeper into an artistic discipline can access Intermediate Level classes through a consultation with their art teacher.	Only open to MSA students. (Interested students please read information above on MSA admissions.)	Career Technical Education courses are classes that also integrate industry specific skills and experiences into class content.
MSA students	Placed via admissions process or consult with Program Specialist	MSA students renew commitment each spring and are placed via teacher advancement	MSA students renew commitment each spring and are placed via teacher advancement	
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VISUAL ARTS

Art and Design

In the studio-based Art and Design courses, students will be guided in the study of 2D and 3D techniques, experimenting with a variety of materials, researching a range of topics and reviewing the work of different artists and art movements from different parts of the world. A particular interest will be drawn to artists and histories related to Latin America. When relevant, the course will be in Spanish, or taught in both, English and Spanish to parallel the cultural student representation at Novato High School.

ART and DESIGN 1

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



This course is for both beginning students and students who may have taken art previously at any grade level. This course teaches the Elements and Principles of Art and Design, exploring a variety of media using themes from different cultures, art history, and contemporary artists. Students will be introduced to artmaking and literacy in the visual arts while exposed to color theory, perspective, beginning drawing and painting techniques, printing methods, beginning 3D design, and other mixed media projects. Students will develop creative strategies and effective studio practices and behavior.

ART DESIGN 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



This course is for both beginning students and students who may have taken art previously at any grade level. This course will serve as a continuation of Art & Design 1. Student learning will focus on refining visual communication using creativity to integrate systems of representation, personal stories, preferred styles and other topics of interest. Techniques in drawing and observation skills will improve to support artmaking with any media introduced in Art & Design 1. This class is designed to support students who want to continue exploring the visual arts, art history and art making processes.

ART DESIGN 3 - NEW PROPOSED COURSE

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



This course will serve as a continuation of Art & Design 2. Student learning will focus on refining specific drawings, painting and printing techniques and 3D fabrication developed in the Art & Design 2 course. Students will be involved with in-depth technical (systems of representation, principles, observation skills, theories, etc...) and content/concept (topics and creativity) studies in the process of resolving visual problems. This class is designed to support students who want to expand their practice with the visual arts, art history and art making processes.

Digital Arts and Animation

In this project-based approach to learning Digital Arts and Animation, students will learn to create fine arts using the computer and a variety of cutting-edge software to manipulate images with stunning techniques. Students will refine their ability to transform thought into meaningful images using the vocabulary of the visual arts and become increasingly skilled with progressively more advanced digital tools and technologies.

DIGITAL ARTS AND ANIMATION - Foundation (*Dig Art/Photo1 ACC135 in Aeries*)

Grade Level: 9 - 12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



In Digital Art I students will learn the technical aspects of computer generated imagery and digital design programs (Mudbox, Maya, After Effects or Nuke) as well as the basic design principles needed.

DIGITAL ARTS AND ANIMATION - Intermediate

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



In Digital Art II and III students are expected to employ the tools and techniques learned in Digital Art I in order to make short animated films and create content for virtual environments.

DIGITAL ARTS AND ANIMATION - Advanced

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



In Digital Art III and IV students are expected to employ the tools and techniques learned in Digital Art 2 in order to make short animated films and create content for virtual environments. In addition, students will further develop advanced techniques and can work individually or teams to create larger scale capstone animation projects.

Drawing and Painting

These studio-based art classes focus on building understanding, proficiency, fluency, and love of drawing and painting techniques and communication with a strong development of a supportive artist community in each class through weekly projects, experimentation, peer critique, and - eventually - finding your unique voice as an artist and creative human being.

FOUNDATION ART

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



This course teaches the Elements and Principles of Art and Design through practice with a focus on 2-D representation with drawing and painting media. This course teaches students to apply color theory, perspective, beginning drawing and painting techniques, and mixed media projects. Students will develop creative strategies and effective studio practices and behavior. Students will be given both projects that build technical skill as well as creative problem solving. Students will explore art and themes from various cultures, art history, and contemporary artists and the importance of art in our lives. Students learn how to formally write and verbally critique works of art.

DRAWING AND PAINTING 1

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

This course moves students into beginning the practice of observational drawing and painting and the further development of creative expression. Students will be given projects that build both technical skill and allow development of a voice and investigations of their own art making process, through use of drawing and painting media. Students will also focus on building a critical awareness and a relationship to the historical and cultural contexts that have influenced visual art.



DRAWING AND PAINTING 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

Students will deepen their experience of painting and drawing with an in-depth study of figurative drawing and painting and creative expression. They will be creating small and large-scale works of art from both observation and imagination and be given a series of engaging and challenging creative problems. Students will translate experiences, personal perspectives and concepts into visual form with a variety of techniques through a variety of media.



DRAWING AND PAINTING 3

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

Students will deepen their experience of painting and drawing with an in-depth study of figurative drawing and painting and creative expression. They will be creating small and large-scale works of art from both observation and imagination and be given a series of engaging and challenging creative problems. Students will translate experiences, personal perspectives and concepts into visual form with a variety of techniques through a variety of media. Pieces created in Drawing and Painting 3 will be pieces students can use in the development of their AP Portfolios the following year in AP Studio Art.



ACA125 AP STUDIO ART

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

This is an Advanced Placement, standards-based, studio art course for the highly motivated student who is seriously committed to a rigorous course of study and building a large body of quality work. Students will create roughly one piece per week and are expected to critique their body of work about every two weeks. Students will be expected to complete work both during and outside of class with the intention of building a professional portfolio to submit to the College Board at the end of the school year. The AP portfolio consists of the following sections: Selected Works (5 pieces demonstrating what students are capable of and Sustained Investigation (15 pieces responding to an inquiry that students develop at the beginning of the year).



Photography

The project-based program works to prepare students to create fine art photography using computers and DSLR (Digital) cameras. Classes take place in a fully equipped multimedia computer lab. Students will advance their visual literacy and visual communication skills and refine their ability to transform their thoughts into meaningful images using the vocabulary of the visual arts. They will become increasingly skilled with progressively more advanced digital tools and technologies and hone their ability to analyze, interpret, formulate and express opinions and judgements about works of art, including their own.

PHOTOGRAPHY 1

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

Photo 1 is an introductory digital photography course that teaches first-year photo students at NHS how to operate digital single-lens reflex cameras, understand and employ the rules of composition, and identify the elements and principles of art and design in an image. Students will use Windows-based computers to learn Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop - industry leading image editing and manipulation programs. Community-based opportunities such as contests and exhibitions will show students the value of their photo and prepare them for their midpoint and final portfolio reviews.



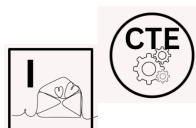
PHOTOGRAPHY 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

Photo 2 is an intermediate digital photography course for second-year photo students to develop advanced digital SLR camera techniques and explore the evolution and history of photography. Additionally, students will be introduced to the social movements and theories that have and will continue to shape the medium. Along with learning advanced techniques in Adobe Photoshop, students will also visit local photo galleries in preparation for their midpoint and final portfolio reviews.



PHOTOGRAPHY 3

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F

Photo 3 is an advanced digital photography course for third-year photo students to learn concept building through reflections and group critiques. Students will continue to hone their skills in Adobe Photoshop in preparation for the certification examination in the Spring. This certification, along with gallery visits, contests, and exhibition will prepare students for their midpoint and final portfolio reviews.



AP STUDIO ART 2D/ PHOTOGRAPHY 4 (Photography Emphasis)

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



Photo 4 is an advanced placement course for motivated fourth-year photo students looking to demonstrate their photography skills to the college board. In this final course of the photography program, seniors will apply previously learned skills to create a sustained investigation and portfolio. Along with gallery visits, contests, and exhibitions, students will also learn large format inkjet printing techniques in preparation for their midpoint and final portfolio reviews as well as the AP portfolio submission in the Spring. The AP portfolio consists of 5

Selected Works demonstrating what students are capable of and 15 Sustained Investigation works responding to an inquiry that students develop at the beginning of the year.

Sculpture and Ceramics

Students explore a full range of techniques for working in ceramics and sculpture. Working mostly with clay, but also using a wide variety of materials, students gain a broad understanding of 3-dimensional art while developing skills and refining craftsmanship as an artist. Throughout the years, students work to successfully convey an idea through sculpture and express their individual artistic voice.

ACC275 SCULPTURE & CERAMICS 1



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘f’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)

In this 3-dimensional art class students express themselves individually and in relationship to the world at large, using a variety of materials. Ceramic techniques such as throwing on the potter’s wheel, hand building, coil and slab construction, modeling and glazing will be covered. In other media, armatures, additive and subtractive methods of construction, carving and forming are utilized. Students become familiar with the art elements and principles of design as they relate to 3-dimensional artwork. Cultural and historical perspectives are investigated as students develop their aesthetic, perceptive, analytic and interpretive skills via art critiques and discussions.

ACC285 SCULPTURE & CERAMICS 2



Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets ‘f’ requirement for Visual Art (requires a grade of ‘C’ or better)

This course builds on the foundations of 3-dimensional art covered in Sculpture & Ceramics 1. Students refine their technical and expressive abilities through clay and a variety of other sculptural methods and media. Stronger emphasis will be on gaining mastery of the potter’s wheel. Projects are student centered, requiring students to conceptualize, plan and create larger and more complex works of art. The use and understanding of art elements and principles of design will deepen through analysis of contemporary 3-D art, guided reflections and critiques. Projects are designed to help fulfill the rigorous requirements of the AP Studio Art – 3-D Design Portfolio.

ACC345 SCULPTURE & CERAMICS 3



Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets ‘f’ requirement for Visual Art (requires a grade of ‘C’ or better)

This advanced, 3-D studio course continues to build upon the skills acquired and refined in level 2 Sculpture & Ceramics. Students explore 3-dimensional concepts while creating a body of work that demonstrates mastery of 3-D design, techniques and media use. Emphasis will be on refining their personal expressive style. Projects are student centered, requiring them to conceptualize, plan and create more complex works of art than at previous levels. Sketchbooks are required to facilitate this growth. Through written analysis of contemporary art, guided reflections and critiques, students deepen their understanding of the art elements and principles of design and

their ability to communicate effectively about art. Projects are designed to help fulfill the rigorous requirements of the AP Studio Art – 3-D Design Portfolio.

AP STUDIO 3D

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Visual Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



AP Studio 3-D Design is for highly motivated students who are seriously interested in the study of art; the program demands an earnest commitment. Students will be required to do a significant amount of work in class and independently, as well as systematic investigation into the formal and conceptual issues in 3-D design. This class is for students who plan to submit an AP Portfolio through the College Board at the end of the school year. The AP portfolio consists of the following sections: Selected Works (5 pieces demonstrating what students are capable of) and Sustained Investigation (15 pieces responding to an inquiry that students develop at the beginning of the year).

Other Visual Arts Elective Offerings

AP ART HISTORY

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



This course introduces students to the rigorous expectations and advanced level of study expected in an AP class. Students will use critical thinking to gain crucial knowledge and understanding of the diverse historical and cultural past and current contexts of architecture, sculpture, painting and other media. Specific topics guiding curriculum include Ancient through Medieval, Renaissance to Present and Beyond European Artistic Traditions. Using visual analysis, students will learn how and why works of art function in context, considering issues such as patronage, gender, and functions and effects of art. Any NHS student may take this course and MSA students may use the course as their second MSA class.

CVC405 VIDEO GAME DESIGN 1

Grade Level: 9 - 12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



This course introduces the student to the fundamental building blocks of seeking to set students on the path to becoming game developers—from game design fundamentals, game narrative, and no-coding-required game kits, to game projects they can code themselves. In this project-based approach to learning Video Game Design, students will learn to create fine arts using the computer and a variety of cutting-edge software to manipulate images with stunning techniques. Students will refine their ability to transform thought into meaningful images using the vocabulary of the visual arts and become increasingly skilled with progressively more advanced digital tools and technologies.

CVC415 VIDEO GAME DESIGN 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Visual Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



In subsequent years, students will build more complex games in teams where they can specialize in a particular role or discipline. In addition to honing their skills they acquired in the first year, they will also incorporate task, time, and budget management techniques.

CVC425 VIDEO GAME DESIGN 3

Grade Level: *11-12*

HS Graduation requirement: Visual Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Visual Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



Students in advanced years will also be collaborating with other departments and have an opportunity to create their games for use in virtual reality (VR).

PERFORMING ARTS

Dance

The Dance Program is designed to nurture and develop highly trained, multi-dimensional, educated dancers while also providing opportunities for beginning dancers to learn fundamentals and advance, if they so desire. By studying a variety of dance styles, including modern, ballet, jazz, social, tap, contemporary and various world dance, dancers will develop new skills and gain perspective on the vast scope of the world of dance. Students also learn dance history, nutrition and anatomy for a well rounded perspective on dance evolution. Performance and choreographic opportunities will include one major performance and smaller shows each year for students at the Intermediate and Advanced levels.

AAC405 FOUNDATION DANCE



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education or general elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Foundation Dance is a beginning level dance class for Dance students who have successfully auditioned into the Dance Program as well as for NHS students who wish to develop foundation dance skills. The Foundation Dance course will focus on a variety of styles including ballet, modern, jazz, contemporary, tap, swing, hip hop and world dance. The focus of the course will be on the technical skills and strength needed to successfully execute each style of dance taught through teacher presentations, guest choreographers, video presentations, field trips and student research. Optional performance opportunities include one major concert and other smaller performances.

AAC705 INTERMEDIATE DANCE



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education or general elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Students are placed in Intermediate Dance through advancement or audition in the Dance program as this two-period class builds on more dance techniques in all styles and introduces students to choreography composition. Performance opportunities include collaborative Big Band Dance (performing with MSA Jazz), Student Choreography Showcase at the Center for the Arts, MSA Showcase, Spring Dance Concert at the Center for the Arts and Novato High School rallies. Classes are a combination of traditional dance rehearsals, classroom instruction and group work.

AAC715 ADVANCED DANCE



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education or general elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Students are placed in Advanced Dance through advancement or audition in the Dance program as this two-period class builds on more advanced dance techniques in all styles and expands on dance composition techniques. Performance opportunities include collaborative Big Band Dance (performing with MSA Jazz), Student Choreography Showcase at the Center for the Arts, MSA Showcase, Spring Dance Concert at the Center for the Arts and Novato High School rallies. Classes are a combination of traditional dance rehearsals, classroom instruction and group work. Advanced Dance students are encouraged to participate in Advance Dance 4 Honors, which is optional. (See below for details)

AAH295 ADVANCED DANCE 4 Honors



Grade Level: 12 only

HS Graduation requirement: Physical Education or general elective – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes

Dance 4 Honors is the most advanced dance course designed for seniors dancers who wish to go beyond the Advanced Dance curriculum. Rigorous weekly ballet classes refine and develop students' physical alignment, classical technique and dance vocabulary. Jazz, Modern, Tap, Popular, Contemporary, and World Dance are studied in the form of instructional units or sub-units throughout the year. Student original composition and choreography is explored in depth. An advanced choreography unit gives students the opportunity to choreograph for the final culminating project; the Spring Dance Concert. A dance analysis and fundamentals component runs concurrently with each dance unit that includes dance history, study of individual dance artists, unique contributors, cultural dimensions, critical assessment, dance notation and music theory. Students continue their study of anatomy, kinesiology, movement and fitness principles, injury prevention and nutrition. Fourth year students are encouraged to perform additionally in soirees, collaborations with the school music, musical theater and art programs.

Instrumental Music

Classical Music

Students have opportunities to play in Concert Band, String Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. Each group maintains an active performance schedule including performances on campus, off campus in the community, and at festivals. All Instrumental classes balance learning repertoire in the ensemble setting with building foundational fundamental individual skills.

AAC155 CONCERT BAND

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



Concert Band is our inclusive concert band. The band is made up of flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, alto saxes, tenor saxes, baritone saxes, French horns, trumpets, trombones, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music covering different styles and periods and written by composers representing diverse populations. Students will be working on a variety of skills that include intonation, accuracy of rhythm, articulations, phrasing and style characteristics. Members of Concert Band will perform in the community and at festivals.

AAC165 CONCERT BAND 2 (Wind Ensemble)

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



Wind Ensemble is the most advanced concert band. The band is made up of flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, alto saxes, tenor saxes, baritone saxes, horns, trumpets, trombones, euphoniums, tubas, and

percussion. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music covering different styles and written by composers representing diverse populations. Advanced level high school band repertoire will be performed. Students will be working on a variety of skills that include intonation, accuracy of rhythm, articulations, phrasing and style characteristics. Members of Concert Band (Wind Ensemble) will perform in the community and at festivals.

STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



The Ensemble is made up of violins, violas, cellos, basses, and piano. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of music covering different styles and periods and written by composers representing diverse populations. Students in the class play music that is appropriate for their skill level. Students work on a variety of skills that include intonation, accuracy of rhythm, bowings, articulations, phrasing and style characteristics.

Jazz Studies

MSA Jazz Studies fosters an atmosphere of excellence, where each student is important to the whole. MSA Jazz Studies provides a comprehensive curriculum for students interested in Jazz music. Students progress in the program based on skill level and will play music that is appropriate for an advanced high school or intermediate college band. Students will work on a variety of skills including intonation, accuracy of rhythm, articulations, phrasing and style characteristics. Jazz Ensembles include saxophones, trumpets, trombones, pianists, guitarists, bass players, and drummers.

JAZZ BAND - INTERMEDIATE

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



In the intermediate level jazz big band students will be working on a variety of skills that include intonation, accuracy of rhythm, articulations, phrasing, scales and style characteristics. maintain an active performance schedule including festivals and concerts. Students will develop an understanding of jazz style, improvisation, and understanding their roles in the ensemble as they rehearse and perform repertoire from a variety of eras, composers, and styles.

JAZZ BAND - ADVANCED

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the 'f' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)



The advanced jazz big band is a college-level high school jazz ensemble, where students excel in performance settings including festivals, concerts, and collaborations with guest artists.

Rock Bands

Students in the Rock Band program are placed by audition and provided with unique opportunities to learn, create, and perform. As part of the MSA curriculum, students engage in self-directed and collaborative musicianship while being given instruction in songwriting, music theory, and instrumental techniques. The Rock Band program at Marin School of the Arts currently consists of six bands between the Intermediate and Advanced level classes. Students have varying levels of experience, but all perform a wide variety of repertoire,

including covers from various eras of rock and pop and their own original songs. Alumni of the MSA Rock Bands have gone on to earn admission to prestigious college music schools and achieve success as professional musicians.

AAC425 ROCK BAND

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘f’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)



The class is primarily comprised of students who play guitar, bass, keyboards and drums and vocalists. Students in the class form bands that rotate players during the year. Students perform a wide range of music from “50’s” to contemporary music. Students engage in self-directed and collaborative musicianship while being given instruction in songwriting, music theory, and instrumental techniques.

ADVANCED ROCK BAND

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts – 10 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘f’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)



Students are placed in the Advanced Rock Band class based on skill level and performance during their audition or by advancing through skills learned in the intermediate level Rock Band class. This structure facilitates students being placed in bands with musicians at similar ability levels, allowing them to learn and grow together.

Vocal Music

The MSA Vocal Music Program is a dynamic department with a variety of ensembles. Each group is part of an overall community of vocalists who are devoted to their craft and work daily to engage in an art form that inspires and empowers through musical excellence. MSA Vocal Music students are fortunate to work with a professional collaborative pianist teaching artists 3 days per week. All Vocal Music courses balance learning repertoire in the classroom setting with building the foundational individual vocal technique of each student.

HERITAGE CHOIR (AAC185 Concert Choir in Aeries)

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement F



Heritage Concert Choir is a mixed SAB/SATB ensemble that performs music of all styles, with an emphasis on music that reflects the cultural and linguistic heritage of the students taking the course each year. Students will work toward the development of healthy vocal technique, as well as acquire music theory and sight-singing skills. Heritage Concert Choir performs in 4 concerts per year, as well as 2 or more festivals, with an emphasis on multicultural and multilingual literature. All performances associated with this course are required activities and are provided on the class calendar and syllabus at the start of the school year.

TREBLE CHOIRS (AAC105 Advanced Choir & AAC145 Con. Choir Adv in Aeries)



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)

Treble Choir is an all treble voice SA/SSA/SSAA ensemble that performs music ranging from the renaissance to the present day. Students will work toward the development of healthy vocal technique, as well as acquire music theory and sight-singing skills. Treble Choir performs in 4 concerts per year, as well as 2 or more festivals, with an emphasis on cultural music and singing in several languages. All performances associated with this course are required activities and are provided on the class calendar and syllabus at the start of the school year.

CONTEMPORARY - ADVANCED TREBLE & JAZZ CHOIR (AAC325 in Aeries)



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)

Students are placed in Contemporary Choir by audition. These students are dedicated to rehearsing at home outside of class and learn a range of literature from multilingual choral music to vocal jazz. Contemporary performs in two ways: as a large ensemble for choral literature and in smaller breakout groups for vocal jazz literature. Jazz group placement is based on the student's experience level. Members of Contemporary perform in 4 concerts per year, as well as 2 or more festivals. We value musical drive to continually improve, attention to detail, professionalism, creativity, and musical exploration. All performances associated with this course are required activities and are provided on the class calendar and syllabus at the start of the school year.

Theatre Arts

MSA's Theatre Arts Department offers three possible courses of study—Theatre Arts, Technical Theatre, and Musical Theatre. Our performance curriculum is based on techniques from the MFA in Professional Acting, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, the physical theatre work of Jacques LeCoq, and Meisner technique. We emphasize focus, intention, authenticity, standard American speech, spontaneity, listening, and a full-bodied approach to acting and performing. Technical theater, design, and mindfulness activities also enrich our experience. All MSA Theatre Arts students are encouraged to participate in regional theater competitions and all of MSA productions.

MUSICAL THEATRE 1



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)

Musical Theatre 1 is a performance class, providing students with a strong foundation in acting, singing and dancing. Engaging in a wide range of musical theater styles and techniques, including classics from the Great American Songbook, students will engage in regular dance and music lessons with guest teaching artists and rehearse and perform individual and group selections with feedback from peers, the instructor, and visiting artists.

AAC375 THEATRE ARTS 1



Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)

Theatre Arts 1 is a rigorous performance class for students who have passed an audition or interview with the teacher, providing students with a strong foundation in acting. Engaging in literature ranging from Shakespeare to contemporary theater, students are introduced to a wide range of techniques, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement, directing, writing, theater history, improvisation, and critical appreciation.

MUSICAL THEATER 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



Musical Theatre 2 is a rigorous performance class for students who have passed an advanced audition or have successfully completed Musical Theatre 1. Musical Theatre 2 builds on the acting/singing/dancing techniques and skills learned in Musical Theatre 1. Students dive deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation.

THEATRE ARTS 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



Theatre Arts 2 is a rigorous performance class for students who have passed an advanced audition or have successfully completed Theatre Arts 1. Theatre Arts 2 builds on the acting techniques and skills learned in Theatre Arts 1, allowing students to dive deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation.

MUSICAL THEATER 3

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



Musical Theatre 3 is a rigorous performance class for students who have passed an advanced audition or have successfully completed Musical Theatre 2. Musical Theatre 3 builds on the acting/singing/dancing techniques and skills learned in both Musical Theatre 1 and 2. Students dive even deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation.

AAC265 DRAMA 3

Grade Level: 11-12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



Drama 3 is a rigorous performance class for students who have passed an advanced audition or have successfully completed Theatre Arts 2. Drama 3 builds on the acting techniques and skills learned in Theatre Arts 1 and 2, allowing students to dive even deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation.

DRAMA 4

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



This is an advanced studio class for senior students who have successfully completed Drama 3. Expectations are higher as Drama 4 builds on the acting techniques and skills learned in previous classes, allowing students to dive even deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation.

DRAMA 4H

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



This is an advanced studio class for senior students who have successfully completed Drama 3. Expectations are the highest, as Drama 4H builds on the acting techniques and skills learned in previous classes, allowing students to dive even deeper into a wider range of theater, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation. Students at this level are mentors. Drama 4H students are committed to participate in regional theater competitions and ALL of MSA Theatre/Musical Theatre productions.

AAH365 MUSICAL THEATRE 4H

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)



This is an advanced performance class for senior students who have successfully completed Musical Theatre 3. Expectations are higher, as Musical Theatre 4H builds on the acting techniques and skills learned in previous classes, allowing students to dive even deeper into a wider range of Musical Theatre, including text analysis, acting, voice, movement (dance/mime/spatial awareness), directing, writing, theater history, improvisation and critical appreciation. Students at this level are mentors. Musical Theatre students are committed to participate in regional theater competitions and ALL of MSA Theatre/Musical Theatre productions.

TECHNICAL THEATRE 1- 4

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: Performing Arts - 10 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes; Meets 'f' requirement for Performing Art (requires a grade of 'C' or better)

Technical Theatre students explore both design elements and the practical application of building costumes, sets, props, lighting and sound for the theater. Students will have the opportunity to work in a state of the art theater, on the road for competitions and festivals, and backstage. While general knowledge is encouraged, in advanced courses, students may concentrate their work in one or more fields.



MSA CINEMATIC ARTS

ACC415 CINEMATIC ARTS 1

Grade Level: 9-12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



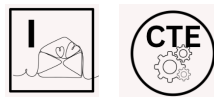
This foundational course is a hands-on project-based class that focuses on making visual narrative stories. Students will explore the use of visuals and other cinematic elements, and learn how to use the necessary film equipment, software, and technological tools that will help them to bring their stories to fruition. Students will also learn the basics of screenwriting and explore how aspects such as composition, movement, editing, sound, and other cinematic aspects are used to tell a story and to provide it with meaning and impact. Through practical exercises and the production of their own narrative projects, students will become familiar with the visual language of motion pictures, and begin to develop the necessary creative skills to convey stories through visual means.

ACC425 CINEMATIC ARTS 2

Grade Level: 10-12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



This second year course is for beginning-to-intermediate level students, and builds on the foundations of Cinematic Arts 1. In this course, students will continue to develop their craft through the production of their own movie projects. This includes a deeper exploration of camera usage through the more advanced features of DSLR cameras, but also includes a deeper dive into cinematic areas such as lighting, audio, and production design. Students will also have greater exposure to the art of dramatic analysis, and how story interpretation translates into staging, camera choices, and a more purposeful visual approach to their productions. Industry-standard production protocols will also be emphasized, as students learn the practical aspects of on-set filmmaking.

ACC535 CINEMATIC AESTHETICS & GENRE STUDY

Grade Level: 10-12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



In this film appreciation and analysis course, students explore the history and ongoing evolution of motion pictures and their role in shaping and influencing culture. The class will chronologically address the history of film, starting with the introduction of motion pictures as a new art form in the late 1800's, then including the silent era and 'talkies', the Golden Era of Hollywood, the influence of television and other media, and carrying through to the digital technologies of today. Throughout this course, students will explore a variety of film genres as well, and examine how technology and creative innovation are intertwined. They will conduct research projects and practice making their own videos focusing on genre appreciation and film technique. By the end of this course, students will have a firm foundation for the ongoing appreciation of film as an art form capable of communication, inspiration, and influence with a strong understanding of its role in the history of the world.

ACC435 CINEMATIC ARTS 3

Grade Level: 11-12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



Cinematic Arts 3 is an intermediate-to-advanced level film production class that continues the development of craft in filmmaking that was introduced in the earlier foundations classes. Students work with higher-level students in Cine 4 and begin to hone their skills in their fields of interest, working both independently and in teams to expand their production capabilities and create festival-ready short films.

ACC545 CINE NARRATIVE PRODUCTION

Grade Level: 11-12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



Taken concurrently with the advanced production courses of Cine 3 & 4, this class offers students a more professional glimpse of how to navigate their ideas through the industry. The role of producing takes center stage, as students learn how to evaluate project ideas and shepherd them from concept through development and writing, planning and production, and marketing and distribution. Students will produce films along with supporting marketing materials, and gain a deeper understanding of how to target audiences and turn their voices into viable films. They will also explore the world of film festivals, and gain a greater practical understanding of the professional media landscape and their potential place within it.

ACC445 CINEMATIC ARTS 4

Grade Level: 12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



Cinematic Arts 4 is an advanced level film production class that serves as the capstone for the Cinematic Arts curriculum. In this class, students work with students from Cine 3 as they continue to practice their craft and begin to develop and demonstrate mastery in their fields of interest. Working both independently and in teams, students produce short film projects both inside and outside of school to develop the vocational skills necessary to work as a professional mediamaker.

ACC545 CINEMATIC SENIOR DIRECTED STUDY

Grade Level: 12

High School Credits: Elective - 5 credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement:



Within this capstone course, senior students will learn how to package themselves as a professional. Pulling from their own personal slate of work, students will create a portfolio that demonstrates their creative and professional skills to best prepare themselves for future work or schooling in the media industry. They will also directly mentor younger film students, learning how to work with peers from a leadership perspective. By the end of this course, students will have a tangible resume and reel to best highlight their skills and present themselves to the professional world. This course is taken in conjunction with Cinematic Arts 4. Teacher approval is required for placement in this course.

MSA CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing gives students the opportunity to experiment with and develop their own writing in a safe, creative, and collaborative environment. We delve into a variety of genres and writing forms, including microfiction, dramatic script writing, creative nonfiction, and poetry. The program also embeds freedom and flexibility to explore the formats and genres students are most passionate about. No matter where students are in their writing experience, actively engaging in the writing process—through regular writing, peer feedback, and revision—will help them improve and walk away with a clearer idea of who they are (or who they want to be) as writers.

The Creative Writing program is project-based, where students develop, revise, and polish a single piece of writing over the course of several weeks (shorter projects might only be 1-2 weeks, while others might be 3-5 weeks). One of the underlying goals of the program is to help writers develop the confidence and skill to submit their work to external audiences, including contests, publications, and literary reviews. Most projects will require students to submit their polished final products to these external audiences, and that expectation increases as students progress each year in the program. Most projects will culminate with a presentation of the final piece of writing.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Grade Level: 9-12

HS Graduation requirement: VAPA – 5 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘f’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)



Creative Writing Workshop & Performance class is for students who would like to experiment with Creative Writing in a mixed grade level environment that includes an independent writing project each semester. The workshop will be an opportunity for students to earn Visual and Performing Arts credit, and to have more voice and choice in the format and audience for their writing. There will be an emphasis on submitting work to contests, literary reviews, and other publications, as well as an emphasis on performance of writing. We will also read and discuss notable books on the art of writing, such as Stephen King’s *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*, Anne Lamott’s *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, Annie Dillard’s *The Writing Life*, and Robert McKee’s *Story: Style, Structure, Substance, and the Principles of Screenwriting*.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP 2

Grade Level: 10-12

HS Graduation requirement: VAPA – 5 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘f’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)



This course expands on the writing experience in Creative Writing Workshop 1.

CREATIVE WRITING 1

Grade Level: 9

HS Graduation requirement: English Elective – 5 Credits

Meets UC/CSU requirement: Yes – meets the ‘g’ requirement (grade of ‘c’ or better)



The first year of the Creative Writing program focuses on building a strong, collaborative culture where students have the opportunity to experiment with their own writing style in a safe, creative, project-based learning environment. The program embeds voice and choice, often giving students opportunities to choose the format they write in, including poetry, short story, flash fiction, dramatic script, novel, and more. Students

examine and explore a variety of writing fundamentals, including structure, plot, character and scene development, conflict, and dialogue. Peer Critique is also a strong component of the course, as students develop their skills to both give and receive constructive criticism. Students are also expected to present their work both inside and outside of the classroom, and to submit their pieces to competitions and awards programs to build confidence and become more comfortable with authentic audiences for their writing. Guest speakers and field trips are also a key component in all four years of the Creative Writing program.

CREATIVE WRITING 2

Grade Level: 10

HS Graduation requirement: English Elective – 5 Credits



Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Yes – meets the 'g' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)*

The second year of Creative Writing continues to foster and develop a collaborative, engaged, passionate group of student writers. Students will continue to have choice in the content, and frequently the format of their writing, but will also be pushed to try new writing genres and formats that may not have been explored in the first year, such as creative nonfiction, personal memoir, and journalism. Students will continue to have opportunities to perform at showcases and soirées, and to participate in engaging interdisciplinary projects with other MSA programs, including the Cinematic Arts Program and Visual Arts Programs.

CREATIVE WRITING 3

Grade Level: 11

HS Graduation requirement: English Elective – 5 Credits



Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Yes – meets the 'g' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)*

In the third year of Creative Writing, students continue engaging in a variety of writing genres, but have more options for the writing projects they choose. Public performance is also more heavily emphasized, with students expected to present their work at showcases, soirées, poetry readings, school events, and other public performances. Students also have more leadership opportunities in the Creative Writing program starting in the third year, from assisting with the Creative Writing Anthology, to working on the curation of the MSA Showcase. Students also work on honing their Creative Writing Portfolio in the second semester, reflecting on their growth as writers over the course of the program, and highlighting the pieces they are proudest of in a digital website.

CREATIVE WRITING 4

Grade Level: 12

HS Graduation requirement: English Elective – 5 Credits



Meets UC/CSU requirement: *Yes – meets the 'g' requirement (grade of 'c' or better)*

Creative Writing 4 is designed for high school seniors who have successfully completed Creative Writing 1, 2, and 3. This fourth year brings even more student voice and choice, as well as leadership opportunities in Creative Writing, including facilitating the annual Creative Writing Anthology. Students will also finalize their Creative Writing Portfolio during the second semester. Internships and student-driven projects are encouraged during the fourth and final year of Creative Writing.