



First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School

High School Elective Offerings

First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter High School is a unique charter school available to our School District of Philadelphia student communities. For our 2022 – 2023 School year, we are offering many mission-driven electives that are at the center of our students' passions for the Arts. Please review the Elective offerings below and then make your selection(s) for the 22-23 School Year by [following these directions here!](#)



General Electives:

History Through Literature with Ms. Gallagher

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Interest in reading novels.

Course Description: History Through Literature is a history course that focuses on 20th century literature; WWII to present-day. Literature novels will be read, discussed, and analyzed. Such novels include: Maus, The Things They Carried, A Long Way Gone, Monster, and American Dirt. The significance of the time period in history associated with these novels will be explained, researched, discovered, and discussed. Students will gain knowledge about contemporary issues and the events in history that influenced them.

Psychology with Mr. McKinney

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: An interest in human psychology and behavior.

Course Description: This course focuses on individual behavior and why an individual thinks, feels, and reacts to certain stimuli. Major emphasis will be placed on research methods, stages in childhood and adolescence, how the brain works, altered states of consciousness, psychological testing, and psychological disorders

Public Speaking with Mr. Gresh

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Student-led guided practice on research, presenting, and critiquing of speeches, presentations, and debates. Independent research outside of class time.

Course Description: In this course, students will learn how to properly research topics, gaining insight into using facts and how to apply them properly to a topic/subject they are presenting/speaking on. Students will learn to craft a thesis/position on a specific topic/issue and how to persuade, inform, or argue that point in a professional manner. Students will use class time to research and present. Independent research is a requirement, as not all class time will be sufficient to create speech or presentation.

Sports Medicine with Mr. Roberts

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Interest in anatomy and physiology and athletics.

Course Description: This course will focus on expressive writing in many different forms. Students will have the opportunity to explore several different types of poetry and prose styles, as well as responding to literature, art mediums, quotes, and music. Originality and writing that shows thought will be emphasized. Strategies to avoid writer's block and new ways to uncover ideas for writing will be studied. Students in Creative Writing will write poems, short stories, plays, news stories, comic strips, children's books, an autobiography and other types of writing that express creativity. Students will also study writing samples from professional writers as well as student writers to guide student progress.



Visual Art Elective Offerings

Fundamentals of Art with Ms. Tepper

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives and continued development of skill & technique, including in-class projects & varied assignments.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to art through a multimedia experience. Students will learn and apply the elements of art and principles of design to produce creative art projects that reflect their understanding of these concepts. In particular, emphasis will be placed on artist language and discussion, art critique, and art making skills. Students will have the opportunity to work both 2 dimensionally and 3 dimensionally, creating works that are a further expression of self.

Drawing and Painting with Ms. Tepper

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives and continued development of skill & technique, including in-class projects & varied assignments

Course Description: A course that provides an opportunity for students to expand on the drawing and painting concepts introduced in Fundamentals of Art. Emphasis is placed on experiences with design principles, drawing techniques and painting skills leading to the development of craft. Students are given more in depth problems to solve creatively while becoming more adept through a broad exposure to various 2 dimensional media, not limited to: graphite, colored pencils, pastels, charcoal, ink, watercolor and acrylic paints.

Alternative Materials with Ms. Tepper

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives and continued development of skill & technique, including in-class projects & varied assignments

Course Description: An interdisciplinary approach through art, exploring various cultures, historical periods, and crafts. A combination of media will be explored, such as but not limited to found object assemblage, jewelry, fibers (weaving/sewing), printmaking, bookmaking and repurposing of materials to create something new. Students will explore a variety of techniques to communicate themes and ideas in their work, studying historical and contemporary artists who work with alternative or unconventional materials. Creative problem-solving skills will be developed.

Ceramics & Sculpture with Ms. Tepper

Prerequisite: Successful completion of fundamentals of Art and/or teacher recommendation.

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives and continued development and skill & technique, including in-class projects & varied assignments

Course Description: An introduction to contemporary ceramic art and sculptural processes, including hand-building methods and studio practices. Students will explore media such as, but not limited to: clay, plaster, wire, cardboard, and paper mache. Students will study historical and contemporary examples of work in addition to creating works of their own. Surface decoration, glazing, and firing techniques will be explored, as well as an investigation of the properties of clay, glaze techniques, and the chemical reaction during the firing process. Studio assignments will focus on the enhancement of skill in design and fabrication. Presentations, discussions and critiques will explore ideas and issues within the field of ceramics and sculpture. Ideal for small group learning. (Class limit: 15-20 students)

Media Art Elective Offerings

Intro to Media Art with Ms. O'Neill

Prerequisites: None	Course Requirements: Completion of objectives including in-class projects and/or written in-class assignments, projects and quizzes.
Course Description: In this introductory class students will begin to build a basic understanding of computer software literacy through a multitude of different digital art projects. Students will learn the ins and outs of Adobe software suite through editing exercises. Each project will build upon previous knowledge and encourage students to explore different functions within the different programs used while expanding their understanding of what media arts encompasses.	
Animation with Ms. O'Neill	
Prerequisites: Intro to Media Art	Course Requirements: Completion of objectives including in-class projects and/or written in-class assignments, projects and quizzes.
Course Description: Introductory course where students will learn about the history and process of creating animation. The class will explore different animation techniques including traditional pencil drawing, digital computer animation, puppet animation and stop motion animation.	
Film & Media with Ms. O'Neill	
Prerequisites: None	Course Requirements: Parent permission for screened movies. Completion of objectives including being present for screenings, written in-class assignments, projects and quizzes.
Course Description: Students will be learning the history, techniques and craft of Film and Television throughout this year long course. Topics include Early Film History, Black Film History and Women's Film History. Lectures and screenings of films and other media will be followed by discussion, written assignments and quizzes. Students will learn how to recognize media tropes, understand the creative development process and the significance of how film and media inform our understanding of history and current day issues.	



Music Elective Offerings

Vocal Ensembles

Concert Choir with Mr. Brown

Prerequisite: none	Course Requirements: Various concerts / performances throughout the year
Course Description: This course is designed to bring students of various musical abilities together in a choral setting to sing a variety of music in 4-part harmony. It will include a multitude of methods in hopes that all students will find ways to meet the expectations of every goal placed in front of them. Music from various genres are performed. <i>No audition requirements.</i>	

Instrumental Ensembles

Chamber Winds with Ms. Milici

Prerequisite: Prior Band experience, audition / recommendation based	Course Requirements: Various concerts / performances throughout the year
Course Description: This is the premier Band ensemble at the school. Performances in various concerts, assessments, festivals, venues, and adjudications will occur both in and outside the school. Various repertoire will be learned and performed. Advanced woodwind, brasswind, and percussion technique will be taught, alongside more advanced music theory.	

Concert Band with Ms. Milici

Prerequisite: None	Course Requirements: Various performances throughout the year
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Course Description: This ensemble is for the beginner / intermediate student musician. No prior experience is needed. Woodwind, brasswind, and percussion instruments will be taught. Basic notations, rhythms, and instrumental technique will be provided. A wide repertoire of music stylings will be performed during various concerts throughout the year. Performances in various concerts, festivals, venues, and adjudications will be provided.

Percussion Lab with Ms. Milici

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Various performances throughout the year.

Course Description: This course is designed to immerse students in the world of percussion in a group setting. Students will learn fundamental percussion techniques, rudiments, and cadences while performing to various contemporary music styles. An understanding of rhythms, basic notations, and enhanced listening skills will be developed. Performance opportunities at parades, pep rallies, sporting events, and various venues will be provided.

String Orchestra 1 with Ms. Moeller

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives based on the goal of improving instrumental skills

Course Description: This course centers around learning the skills necessary to perform on a string instrument. Students will learn how to read musical notation and how to perform different musical repertoire in order to improve their instrumental skills. Students will also develop necessary aural skills and practice techniques in order to become self-sufficient musicians. Students will demonstrate their musical knowledge both in class and during performance opportunities.

String Orchestra 2 with Ms. Moeller

Prerequisite: Previous experience playing a string instrument

Course Requirements: Completion of objectives based on the goal of improving instrumental skills

Course Description: This course centers around learning the advanced techniques necessary to perform higher-level repertoire. Students will take a more in-depth approach to their music, including learning more challenging key signatures and scales, gaining more accurate aural skills, and understanding the capabilities of their instruments when played at a higher level. Students will demonstrate their musical knowledge both in class and during performance opportunities.

Other Music Electives

Music Theory (Advanced Placement) with Mr. Brown

Prerequisites:

- Music Aptitude Test
- Short performance by the student on their primary instrument that shows their musical abilities.
- Prior experience in a musical ensemble (ie Band, Choir, Orchestra)
- Recommendation of the director of a music ensemble you have performed with

Course Requirements: Basic musicianship skills such as reading and writing music

Course Description: This course is designed for students planning to major in music as well as those students who want more in-depth exposure to music theory. Content and objectives for this course have been developed from the AP Course Description found at AP Central and integrates aspects of melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, musical analysis, composition and to some extent, history and style. Musicianship skills such as dictation, sight singing, and keyboard harmony are also a part of this course. The student's ability to read and write musical notation is fundamental as are basic performance skills in voice or on another instrument.

Piano Lab with Mr. Brown

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: A desire to play the piano

Course Description: This course is designed for students who want to learn the basics of piano performance. Students who have previous experience and/or show they can work at a more advanced level will have the opportunity to perform more advanced techniques and repertoire. Students will also develop necessary aural skills and practice techniques in order to become self-sufficient musicians. Students will demonstrate their musical knowledge both in class and during performance opportunities.

Music Technology with Ms. Moeller

Prerequisite: None

Course Requirements: Project based, performance based



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Course Description: Students will gain a working knowledge of music production, songwriting, beat making, and recording. Students will gain exposure to the industry standard software: Pro-tools, Logic, Garageband, and others.. Students will understand the process of song creation, studio equipment, and mixing / mastering. Partnerships with local studios will be developed.