



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 2025 - 2026 School year, we are offering many mission-driven electives that are at the center of our students' passions for the Arts. Students will select their elective choices during our electives fair in school, and through course selection with our counselors.

General Electives:

Psychology with Mr. Schutte

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

Forensic Science with Ms. Baht

Course Requirements: Course requirements: students interested in pursuing careers in law, forensic law, health and medicine

Course Description: The course will examine application of scientific methods to support the law enforcement community in the investigation, apprehension and prosecution or vindication of individuals involved in criminal activities. Topics will include crime scenes, pathology, anthropology, serology controlled substance analysis, crime scene reconstruction, US case law, major cases, legal issues The course is appropriate for students interested in pursuing careers in law, forensic law, health and medicine.

Science in Society with Ms. Baht

Course Requirements: Course requirements: students interested in pursuing careers in sociology, biology and public health.

Course Description: This course focuses on the applications of science as a major force that shapes our society, affects our daily lives, and determines the destiny of humanity. The conflict between scientific advances and humanistic values raises ethical issues that affect everyone in our society. Topics will include scientific method, food production, genetics, population control, etc.

History Through Literature with Ms. Held

Course Requirements: An interest in reading, history, and any combination of the two!

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.

Theater Arts with Ms. Havu

Course Requirements: In-class participation, performing in front of peers, completion of in-class work including any projects and assignments.

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to theater through performance and behind-the-scenes knowledge. Students will learn and apply the elements of theater and principles of acting to perform scenes and monologues that reflect their understanding of these concepts. In particular, emphasis will be placed on acting, improv, and script analysis. Students will have the opportunity to work individually and as part of an ensemble using prewritten scripts.





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Media Art Elective Offerings

Intro to Media Art with Ms. O'Neill

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

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

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.

Visual Art Elective Offerings

Fundamentals of Art

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.

Alternative Materials

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.



Music Elective Offerings

Vocal Music

Concert Choir with Mr. Brown

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. *No audition requirements.*

Instrumental Music

Concert Band with Ms. Milici

Course Requirements: Various performances throughout the year

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

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 with Mr. Hankerson

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.

Music Technology with Mr. Hankerson

Course Requirements: Project based, performance based

Course Description: Students will gain a working knowledge of music production, songwriting, beat making, and recording. Students will also learn how to play the piano and how to improvise on the piano. 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.