

EDUCATION FOR THE ARTS

2018-2019 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

DANCE

Modern/Jazz Dance Studio

Comstock / Loy Norrix / Kalamazoo Central / Portage Central

Learn the basic elements and discipline of formal dance technique, exploring classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students gain performance skills, learn how to choreograph their own dances and are required to participate in EFA dance concert at end of trimester. They will have the opportunity to take field trips to see live dance concerts and attend master classes. Students will work with professional dance educators and guest artists.

Intermediate Dance Studio

Kalamazoo Central / Loy Norrix

Intermediate Dance is for students who have completed a beginning EFA class, or have previous dance/movement experience, and are committed to a full year of dance instruction. Students will further their training through in-depth instruction and structured small group student exploration in formal dance technique, classical modern dance, ballet, jazz, hip hop, and cultural dance styles. Exploration of dance-related subjects will include movement improvisation, composition, and dance history. Students will gain performance, composition, and choreographic skills, develop observation, analysis, critical thinking, and reflection skills. Students will prepare and produce a dance presentation each trimester. The class will take field trips to professional dance concerts and have the opportunity to work with master guest artists.

Integrated Dance / Health / PE

Kalamazoo Community Education Center

This class integrates dance, physical education, and health. First semester students study dance and physical education, earning ½ credit in fine arts and ½ credit in PE. Second semester students will study dance and health, earning ½ credit in health and an additional ½ credit in fine arts. The course affords students opportunities to develop creative skills in dance, explore a variety of lifetime fitness and sports activities, and learn about important diet, nutrition and health-related issues.

LITERARY ARTS

Creative Writing Online

Web based

Through the study of written works in various forms and the regular practice of writing, students will achieve a better understanding of the creative writing process. Additionally, students will collaborate on a few projects, and will read and critique one another's work through small group workshops (held through discussion forums). Students will turn in four major creative writing assignments, regular creative writing exercises, three short reflections, a recording of student performing one of their assignments, and an online portfolio.

Digital Storytelling Online

Web based

Through the study of digital stories in various forms, students will develop their own stories and share them through various online channels. Students will learn how to use apps, websites, and other tools to create their own work. They will view and critique one another's work and engage in weekly forum based class discussions. Students will turn in four major storytelling projects, regular annotated photographs, three short reflections, several shorter writing and image based assignments, and an online portfolio.

NEW! Media Literacy: Analyzing and Interpreting Moving Images

Web based and at High School

Learn the techniques and tools that media producers use to persuasively deliver a message or provoke an emotionally response to viewers. Decipher the effect that cinematic techniques have on delivering a message, theme, or narrative by examining these techniques in motion pictures and other mainstream and social media sources. Learn to see the images apart from the content in order to critically analyze and understand how the technical aspects of image, sound, and script are purposefully used to make the viewer think and feel. Actively research cinematic/media techniques, watch and critique media sources, and develop critical skills in description, analysis and interpretation of media sources.

NEW! Comics, Manga and Graphic Novel Arts

Web based and at High School

Learn to write and produce compelling, artistic and inventive comics or manga, and Graphic Novels. Research the history of comics, study the elements of story, plot, and character development, and the productive use of imagery, layout, and composition. Work individually and collaboratively on projects and develop projects through manipulation and editing of found media and open source graphics.

MEDIA ARTS

Film and Video Arts

Epic Center

Film & Video Arts introduces students to the creation and study of time-based media in video and film. They work with the latest digital technology in creating a variety of works that help them mold and define their own personal visual style for innovative, artistic communication.

Advanced Video Arts Studio

Vicksburg High School

AVAS is a project-based video class for 9-12 grade students who have already taken at least one semester of a video or TV production class. The class will concentrate on individual student films that will be used for portfolio work and entered into video competitions. Students will learn about lighting, sound, directing and advanced filming and editing techniques.

Advanced Multimedia Arts

Epic Center

Continued study of new art forms made possible through the use of new technologies integrating video, music, sound, film, still images, and interactive media. Work individually or in small groups to create time-based and interactive artworks ranging from art for the Internet, interactive video, experimental film, and new media installations/performances. Prerequisite: Film & Video Arts, and/or permission of instructor.

Media Arts Creative Suite

Kalamazoo Valley Community College – Center for New Media

Create artworks using computers as tools and learn how art communicates emotions and ideas. Projects include digital photograph manipulation, art for the Internet, stereo 3D images, digital painting, and combining traditional media with new technologies.

Digital StudioArt

Web based and Epic Center

Digital tools permeate nearly all avenues of media, including such fundamental artistic mediums a drawing and painting. The generations-old techniques once practiced with pencil and paper, brush and canvas, are now increasingly supplemented or even supplanted by pixels and vectors. This class will introduce the basics of drawing and painting using digital means, in the process also giving them an introduction to the basics of digital imaging using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. The course is built around the core elements of visual art, such as line, shape, value, and color with an additional emphasis on learning and using the tools of imaging software.

Digital PhotoArt

Web based and Epic Center

This class will introduce, enhance and refine students' ability to express themselves with the aid of digital cameras. Students will learn proper photographic technique, computer enhancement of photos, printing and professional presentation techniques. The students will have many assignments ranging from core photography fundamentals to immersive pieces of personal expression. Students will leave class with the beginnings of a portfolio and the knowledge to continue and expand on their work in the future.

MUSIC

Music Studio I

Epic Center

For beginning music students who read music with low or no proficiency. Students will: 1) Learn to read music and basic music theory (including note identification, key signature, and time signature); 2) Learn basic keyboard skills; 3) Create music in solo and small ensemble settings using instruments, electronic media and recording; 4) Encounter music of many genres and experience and discuss great live performances. The curriculum and instruction will utilize the latest computer hardware and software in a state-of-the-art technology.

Advanced Music Studio

Epic Center

This class is for moderate to advanced level music students who read music with moderate proficiency, and know basic music theory. Students will: 1) Expand knowledge of music theory concepts and ear training (including scales, circle of 5ths chords theory, harmonization); 2) Compose music in solo and small ensemble settings using instruments, electronic media and recording; 3) Encounter music of many genres, and experience and discuss great live performances; 4) Explore aspects of careers in music production and support services. The curriculum and instruction will utilize the latest computer hardware and software in a state-of-the-art technology lab.

THEATRE

Advanced Musical Theatre Portage Northern High

Using a workshop approach, students will experience an in-depth study of musical theatre to enhance their appreciation of the genre and improve their practical performance skills in acting, vocal and dance performance. Mentored by theatre, vocal and dance educators and guest artists, students will explore, perform, and critique various aspects of musical theatre from the past to the present. Emphasis will be placed on creative and innovative approaches to performing works.

Theatre Improv and Scriptwriting Epic Center

Through in-depth study and practice students will learn the basics of improvisation, writing, directing and acting for the stage, as well as integrating image and music into their own theatrical performances. Students work with practicing artists exploring different forms of theatre, from classical to contemporary. These experiences will inform the development of each student's distinct writing style. Students will participate in a minimum of two class performances and visit area theatres to experience a variety of stage productions.

VISUAL ARTS

Advanced 2-D Art Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

In-depth exploration of advanced 2-D techniques including drawing and design, printmaking, watercolor, acrylics and other media. Portfolio preparation and public exhibition opportunities available. Work with a variety of professional artists in modern studio facilities and resources at the KIA.

Advanced 3-D Art Kalamazoo Institute of Arts

In-depth exploration of advanced 3-D techniques including sculpture, ceramics, modeling, carving and casting processes, using a wide range of materials, creating representational and abstract works. Portfolio preparation and public exhibition opportunities available. Work with a variety of professional artists in modern studio facilities and resources at the KIA.

NEW! Jewelry and Metalsmithing Portage Central High School

This course is a student-centric, choice-based, studio art class. Learn the six basic jewelry making skills essential for jewelry production: internal cut; chain maille; soldering; forging and annealing; enameling; and wire wrapping, to design and create unique pieces of jewelry. Develop an online portfolio of work, participate in critiques, and have access to local jewelry designers as guest artists to gain skills and learn about the business of selling original jewelry.