

## Why Choose a Focus?

In the H&A Signature Program, we want our students to build their program around their interests and strengths, and we want their high school transcripts and experiences to reflect those interests and strengths.

By choosing a humanities or an arts focus, and by supplementing their studies with added coursework in the other fields, students will be able to create an exciting and challenging course of study that will enhance their college applications and life experiences.



Senior Cameron Rowlett plays his SIP guitar solos during the H&A graduation ceremony. In his SIP paper he examined the resurgence in popularity of Mississippi John Hurt in the 1960s.



H&A students work on a map exercise in AP Modern World History.

## Important Items

- **All** H&A students will be enrolled in the special H&A sections of Honors English and Honors OR AP Social Studies for Grades 9-10.
- All students will choose a focus by February 1st of their sophomore year.
- Students may change their focus until February 1st of their junior year, but they may **not** change after that time.
- Arts Focus students will be assigned an advisor as soon as the arts focus is declared. The advisor will stay with the student until graduation.
- The Program Coordinator will advise all Humanities Focus students.
- **ONLY** Arts Focus students will be able to complete an arts-based Senior Independent Project.

Thomas S. Wootton  
High School

# Humanities & Arts Signature Program

## Overview



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# program components

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## Course Requirements

### Humanities Focus (16 credits)

This focus is for students who have a passion for some aspect of humanities: history, literature, languages, philosophy, law, and psychology.

English (4 credits)  
Social Studies (3 credits)  
Fine Arts (1.5 credits)  
Foreign Language (4 credits)  
Additional Electives (2 credits)\*  
Specialty Courses (.5 credit)  
Junior Seminar (.5 credits)  
Senior Seminar (.5 credit)

*\*Focus your study through your choice of English, Social Studies, and/or Foreign Language electives.*

### Arts Focus (16 credits)

This focus is for arts-oriented students who want to spend more time concentrating in a specific arts field.

English (4 credits)  
Social Studies (3 credits)  
Junior Seminar (.5 credits)  
Senior Seminar (.5 credit)  
AND

*Arts Focus students may choose from the following credit combinations:*

4 Fine Arts + 4 Foreign Language OR  
5 Fine Arts + 3 Foreign Language

**Please note:** these course lists do not include the MCPS required courses in Science, Math, PE, Health, or Technology.

## Off-Campus Experience (OCE)

All H&A students must complete ONE of the following options while enrolled in the program:

- Study Abroad
- University Program (in an H or A course)
- Internship in an H&A field

In addition to the options listed above, Arts Focus students may also complete the following:

- Community Arts Program (must receive prior approval)
- Cumulative Music/Art Lessons with Portfolio



**Class of 2012** members pause for a moment in front of the Supreme Court on their way to visit Rep. Chris Van Hollen's office.

## Senior Independent Project (SIP)

### Humanities Focus

- 18-20 page research paper on a topic of interest (student choice)
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### Arts Focus

Students may choose from one of three options (all SIPs will be done in a specific arts pathway):

- 18-20 page research paper on a topic of interest (student choice)
- 8-10 page arts research paper with a directly related major creative project
- Short arts research essay with program notes and public performance/exhibition (by application only)

**All SIP students must successfully complete an oral defense panel.**

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## Enrichment Activities

Students in the H&A Program will go on one field trip per semester during the first four semesters of high school, and they will opportunities to attend artists-in-residence sessions in their English classes and hear special speakers.