

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.



2008 is GREAT!
The H&A Class of 2008 celebrate graduation at BlackRock Center for the Arts. 29 of 68 class members went to "top-tier" schools. Wow!

Important Items

- **All** H&A students will be enrolled in the special H&A sections of Honors/AP English and Social Studies for Grades 9-11.
- 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

Arts Focus



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High School

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choose a focus



Actors take a bow after performing a modern-day version of “Much Ado About Nothing” in Rebecca Munley’s Senior Independent Project.

Compare the Pathways

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)

Specialty Courses (.5 credit)

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

Humanities Focus (16 credits)

This focus reflects the traditional H&A Signature Program requirements.

English (4 credits)

Social Studies (3 credits)

Fine Arts (1.5 credits)

Foreign Language (4 credits)

Additional Electives (2 credits)

Specialty Courses (1 credit)

Senior Seminar (.5 credits)

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

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

Arts Focus

Choose a particular arts pathway. Students may choose from the following art courses, taken during any year, as long as prerequisites (denoted by *) are followed. **Students should take art/music classes each year.**

Visual Arts (4 or 5 credits)

Foundations of Art

Painting I, II*

Photography I, II*, III*

Ceramics I, II*, III*

Fashion I, II*

Studio Art I, II*, III*

AP Studio Art*

AP Photography*

AP Ceramics/Sculpture*

AP Art History*

Independent Study Painting*

Performing Arts (4 or 5 credits)

Vocal

Chorus

Concert Choir*

Chamber Singers*

Musical Theatre*

Instrumental

Guitar I

Guitar II*

Beginning Band and Strings

Concert Band*

Symphonic Band*

Concert Orchestra

Symphonic Orchestra*

Chamber Orchestra*

Jazz Ensemble*

Lab Jazz Ensemble*

May also be taken by Vocal and Instrumental students:

Rock 101/102

AP Music Theory*

Theatre

Theatre I

Theatre II*

Musical Theatre*

Advanced Acting*

Technical Theatre*

Stage Design*

History of Theatre

Arts-Based Off-Campus Experience (OCE)

Students may choose from one of following options (all OCEs will be completed within a specific arts pathway):

- Arts-based Internship
- University or Community Program (must receive prior approval)
- Cumulative Music/Art Lessons with Portfolio
- Study Abroad Arts program

Arts-Based Senior Independent Project (SIP)

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

- 18-20 page arts research paper
- 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.