

University High School

Performing & Fine Arts Magnet



2021 – 2022 Student Handbook

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The Arts Advantage

There is a direct correlation between improved SAT scores and the length of time spent studying the arts. Those who studied the arts four or more years scored 53 points higher on verbal and 39 points higher on math portions of the SAT than students with no course work or experience in the arts.

- The College Board

Research has shown that students who participate in music are 52% more likely to go on to college and graduate, and that they have higher levels of self-esteem, discipline, analytical and cognitive skills, and ability to work in a team environment...The creation of art forms requires the use of judgment, perceptivity, ingenuity, and purpose – in a word, intelligence.

- Elliot Eisner, Stanford University

Art exists for the human species. I think that all of the people who love art, those who teach art, and all of us should burn with the obligation to save the world.

- Shinichi Suzuki

Our Mission

It is the goal of the University High School Performing Fine Arts Magnet Program to create an environment, both in the classroom and at home, in which our students can undergo personal growth through active participation in the arts. We expect our students to become confident, disciplined, well-rounded human beings with a firm foundation of academic knowledge integrated with a love and appreciation for a diverse range of human cultural achievement.

Our program maintains an intense focus on academic and artistic achievement through a rigorous course progression at the Honors and AP level within four possible performance tracks. Students will engage in reviews and recitals mirroring those of accredited colleges and conservatories. The program will offer trips to prominent colleges as our award-winning faculty guide students toward the application and audition process for our nation's leading postsecondary institutions. We firmly believe in the benefit of arts education for all students, whether their future participation in the arts is as a performer, producer, educator, or patron.

You have met the specific and stringent admission requirements for this unique program. The privilege of being a member of the Performing Fine Arts Magnet demands your highest efforts. Your enrollment in this program is contingent upon your maintenance of high expectations for yourself as a student and performer. It is important that you take special care to read and understand the contents of this handbook. Further questions can be addressed to the faculty members for your track.

Congratulations on embarking on this exciting journey... we are excited to see you step onto the stage and show the world what you can achieve!

Performance Tracks

One of the unique opportunities offered by the Performing & Fine Arts Magnet Program at University High School is the balance of focus on students' artistic and academic discipline. This is achieved through a curriculum of academic and performing arts classes; each year, students will have the opportunity to take four academic courses and three performing arts courses.

The four-year course progression of performing arts courses is designed to mimic a four-year postsecondary program. There is an intense emphasis on acting, singing, dancing, playing, design, and technical theatre which gives students the refined performing skills needed to pursue future college and career opportunities in the arts.

There are four tracks available: **Dance, Theatre, Vocal, and Instrumental**, with opportunities to specialize within each track. Our performing arts faculty can assist students in selecting the right track and creating a customized curriculum that meets each student's needs.

Academic Course Curriculum

Every Performing Arts Magnet student will participate in a rigorous academic curriculum with an emphasis on classes at the Honors and AP level. Furthermore, it is our expectation that each student will complete the Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course online the summer before his or her freshman year.

Academic options for all students are as follows:

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 1 Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 2 Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 3 Honors AP English Language ENC1101 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 4 Honors AP English Language AP English Literature ENC 1101
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 1 Honors Geometry Honors Algebra 2 Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry Honors Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus Honors Probability & Statistics Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algebra 2 Honors Precalculus Honors Probability & Statistics Honors AP Calculus AB AP Statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precalculus Honors Probability & Statistics Honors AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics
Foreign Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish 1 ASL 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish 2 ASL 2 <p><i>Second year of foreign language completed online via FLVS.</i></p>		
History/Civics		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World History Honors AP World History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US History Honors AP US History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Government Honors AP American Government Economics Honors AP Economics
Natural Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biology Honors Marine Science Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry Honors Physics Honors Biology Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry Honors Physics Honors Astronomy Honors Environmental Science Honors Anatomy & Physiology Honors Marine Science Honors AP Physics AP Biology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemistry Honors Physics Honors Astronomy Honors Environmental Science Honors Anatomy & Physiology Honors Marine Science Honors AP Physics AP Biology

Track-Specific Courses

Each performance track within the magnet program offers different course progressions for the three magnet classes.

Dance Track

The **DANCE TRACK** at University High School PFA provides and encourages dancers to discover their best self through various dance technique, creation, professional development and performing experience. The dance track provides technique in ballet, jazz, modern and choreography.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Magnet Course 1	• Ballet 1	• Ballet 2	• Ballet 3	• Ballet 4
Magnet Course 2	• Dance Techniques 1	• Dance Techniques 2	• Dance Techniques 3	• Dance Techniques 4
Magnet Course 3	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective

Instrumental Track

The **INSTRUMENTAL TRACK** provides band, orchestra, piano, and guitar students with a collegiate-style music experience, including multiple performing ensembles, intensive music theory, a sophomore jury, and senior solo recital.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Magnet Course 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 3 • Orchestra 3 • Guitar 1 • Keyboard 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 4 • Orchestra 4 • Guitar 2 • Keyboard 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 5 Honors • Orchestra 5 Honors • Guitar 3 • Keyboard 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band 6 Honors • Orchestra 6 Honors • Guitar 4 • Keyboard 4
Magnet Course 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble 1 • Chamber Orchestra • Steel Drums • Magnet Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble 2 • Chamber Orchestra • Steel Drums • Magnet Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble 3 • Chamber Orchestra • Steel Drums • Magnet Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble 4 • Chamber Orchestra • Steel Drums • Magnet Elective
Magnet Course 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory 2 Honors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Music Theory

Vocal Track

The **VOCAL TRACK** provides students opportunities in choral and solo voice techniques. Students will enjoy performing in various ensembles including an SSAA or TTBB chorus based on voice type, and a mixed including an SSAA or TTBB chorus based on voice type, and a mixed voice concert choir. They will also take piano, music theory, and vocal techniques courses to further their musical learning experience. Students in the vocal track will be prepared for auditions at top colleges and universities across the country.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Magnet Course 1	• Chorus 3	• Chorus 4	• Chorus 5 Honors	• Chorus 6 Honors
Magnet Course 2	• Vocal Techniques 1	• Vocal Techniques 2	• Vocal Techniques 3 • Musical Theatre 1 <i>(by audition)</i>	• Vocal Techniques 4 • Musical Theatre 2
Magnet Course 3	• Elective	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory

Theatre Track

The **THEATRE TRACK** which includes theatre, musical theatre and technical theatre will include courses in a natural progression to educate students, demonstrate by modeling and allow for performances of skills learned. Students will be prepared to audition and apply to performing arts department of any desired college

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	• Acting 1	• Acting 2	• Acting 3 • Technical Theatre 3	• Acting 4 • Technical Theatre 4
Required Course	• Technical Theatre 1	• Technical Theatre 2	• Directing 1	• Directing 2 <i>or</i> • Playwriting
Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective	• Magnet Elective

Magnet electives within the theatre track include the following:

- Musical Theatre 1 – 3 (10th – 12th grade)*

Cross-track magnet elective courses are also encouraged and include:

- Chorus (9th – 12th grade)
- Ballet (9th – 12th grade)
- Fashion Design (9th – 12th grade)

Please note that the Musical Theatre class is placed by audition. It is recommended that students participate in a chorus class prior to auditioning for Musical Theatre.

Parental Support

Quality education is the result of a joint effort on the part of students, teachers, and parents. Our program and students need parent support and encouragement. Teachers may be contacted by phone or e-mail. If needed, parents may contact their child's guidance counselor to make an appointment with a teacher; teachers are not available for unscheduled meetings during the school day. Parents are encouraged to become involved by assisting with fund-raising activities and field trips. County policy mandates that all parents who chaperone field trips register as ADDitions volunteers.

Recital Information

A goal of the Performing Arts Magnet Program is to provide students with opportunities to perform and observe performances by peers and professionals in a positive, supportive environment. The magnet holds mandatory quarterly recitals to provide these opportunities. **Each student in the UPFA must participate in one magnet recital per year.**

Recitals begin at 1:30 PM and conclude by 3:00 PM. Students are required to remain for the full duration of the recital; attendance will be taken. Any student with a non-excused recital absence may be placed on magnet probation, following a discussion with Ms. Alvarado and Mr. Dunn.

The intent of the recitals is to give our magnet students a professional platform for students to perform and share their art with their peers and mentors. This not only builds individual confidence but also brings our magnet community together.

Recital 1	Juniors	September 29, 2021
Recital 2	Sophomores	December 15, 2021
Recital 3	Freshmen	March 9, 2022
Recital 4	Seniors	May 11, 2022

Recital Dress

Formal dress is only required for evening performances. Afternoon recitals should be performed in official Performing Arts Magnet polo shirts, or in costume as appropriate.

Recital Etiquette

1. Respect the right of others to listen and enjoy.
2. Arrive early and remain through the full duration of the recital.
3. Show appreciation appropriately.
4. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during the recital

Expectations and Requirements

Attendance Expectations

It is the student's responsibility to attend classes and be on time daily. Any unexcused absences in excess of five consecutive days or ten days per semester must be excused by a doctor. It is the parents' responsibility to see that any such absences are excused by the school attendance clerk. Magnet students are also expected to attend all required recital performances. Although magnet students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, Performing Arts events should be given precedence in the event of a conflict. If a student fails to follow the attendance policy, he or she will be placed on probation the following quarter.

Academic Expectations

All students must maintain an overall unweighted GPA of 2.5 each semester and 3.0 average across magnet classes. It is the parents' responsibility to regularly monitor student attendance, behavior, and grades, and to provide regular study time at home without distractions. If a student's grades fall below this level, he or she will be placed on probation the following quarter.

Behavioral Expectations

It is the student's responsibility to behave in a dignified and appropriate manner during class, at school, and at all school or magnet events. All students must abide by the OCPS Code of Student Conduct. It is the parents' responsibility to review the OCPS Code of Student Conduct with their child and to work with teacher and administration in the event that any disciplinary issues arise. Conduct violations will have the following consequences:

- Two violations at Level II will result in probation.
- Any violation at Level III will result in probation.
- Any violation at Level IV will result in immediate dismissal from the magnet program.

Financial Expectations

Magnet dues of \$30.00 shall be assessed each school year and can be paid via SchoolPay:
<https://www.schoolpay.com/pay/for/University-Performing-Arts-Magnet/MdwJ>

Instrumental Jury Expectations

Students in the Instrumental Track will perform a Sophomore Jury in the fourth quarter of their 10th grade year. The jury consists of all twelve major scales, the chromatic scale, and a work of solo literature (FBA/FOA Grade III+). If a student fails to demonstrate adequate musical proficiency, or does not attend, that student will be given one additional opportunity to do so during the fall semester of the 11th grade year. If adequate musical proficiency has still not been demonstrated, or if the student once again fails to attend, the student will be removed from the magnet program at the end of the fall semester.

Probation Policy

When any student in the Performing Arts Magnet is placed on probation, a meeting will be arranged in which the student, parent, magnet coordinator, UPFA department chair, and other faculty members as necessary will sign a contract acknowledging this.

The issues that resulted in probation must be corrected by the end of the following semester. Failing this, the student will be dismissed from the Performing Arts Magnet.

Any violation of the OCPS Code of Student Conduct committed while a student is on academic probation could result in immediate dismissal.

Dismissal from the Magnet Program

Students placed on probation for a fall semester may be removed from the program after Semester 1 if the probationary issue has not been resolved. If a student dismissed from the magnet is not zoned for University High School, he or she will return to his or her home school. If a University High School zoned student is removed from the magnet program in December, he or she may remain in the same classes, but magnet specific courses may also be changed at the discretion of the Magnet Coordinator, Magnet Department Chair, and Track Leader. Dismissal due to a Level III or IV violation of the OCPS Code of Student Conduct may result in removal from Performing Arts classes.

Acknowledgement

I verify that I have read the University High School Performing Arts Magnet Handbook, and understand the principles and expectations laid out therein.

I will abide by these principles and expectations to the best of my ability, and accept the consequences if I fail to do so.

I understand that failure to comply with the standards of the Performing Arts Magnet may result in probation and possible dismissal from the program.

Student Name (print)

Grade

Student Signature

Date

OCPS Student ID Number

Performance Track

- Dance
- Instrumental (Band)
- Instrumental (Orchestra)
- Instrumental (Piano/Guitar)
- Theatre
- Vocal



Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian E-Mail

Parent/Guardian Mobile Phone