

Natomas Charter School

Performing and Fine Arts Academy

Course Catalogue

2009-2010

ACADEMIC COURSES

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Course Title: **Language Arts 7**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for 7th Grade Students
Required course for middle school promotion

The intent of 7th grade Language Arts is to develop fluency in both reading and writing skills and a continuing appreciation for literature. Focus will be placed on the elements of the novel, short story, poetry, drama, grammar, and the writing process.

Course Title: **Language Arts 8**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for 8th Grade Students
Required course for middle school promotion

This course places a strong emphasis on grammar, writing, reading and interpretation of literature. Oral communication skills will be developed throughout the year, as will the student's ability to proofread, edit, and revise their own writing.

Course Title: **English 9**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 9th Grade Students
Required course for high school graduation

The basis of this course is the development of writing skills and literary analysis. Emphasis is given to spelling, usage, mechanics, grammar, vocabulary and basic literary techniques. Students will analyze the basis of the objection to various works banned from the 1890s to the present. Students will learn to develop and present their observations in both written and oral form, while studying both historical and contemporary cultures. The course is designed to develop student understanding of the values that motivate human behavior, to encourage the discovery of common themes within diverse cultures, and to make connections between social conventions and individual choices.

Course Title: **English 9 Honors**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

This course will cover the elements of English 9. However, emphasis will be placed on learning more advanced writing and analytical skills.

Course Title: **English 10**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 10th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course of all 10th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

This class offers further development of vocabulary and writing skills, as well as analysis and comprehension of literature. This class is taught in tandem with World History and will study world literature using a thematic approach. Students will be encouraged to challenge their own preconceptions about underlying issues of fanaticism and intolerance. They enhance their reading skills through non-fiction, and they will receive further practice in written composition and oral presentations.

Course Title: **English 10 Honors**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 10th Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

This course will cover the elements of English 10 and will explore additional analytical thinking and writing skills through the study of various literature and essay writing formats.

Course Title: **English 11**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 11th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 11th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

Students will read literature written by American authors from the seventeenth through twentieth centuries. Students will learn about a wide variety of literary genres and study the diverse cultural backgrounds of many American authors. They will be exposed to short stories, poetry, essays, diaries, autobiographies, speeches, and supplementary reading materials. Students will learn how to write narrative, persuasive, expository, and descriptive essays as well as complete research projects that focus on American artists and events.

Course Title: **English 11 Honors**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 11th Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

This course will cover the elements of English 11 and will explore additional analytical thinking and writing skills through the study of various literature, essay, and research writing formats.

Course Title: **English 12**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 12th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

Students in English 12 read representative British literature. They learn about the influence of literature of earlier times on the development of modern British and American literature. They study literature as unique reflections of British experience in order to understand historical and contemporary issues. Students analyze and evaluate literature. They use narrative, descriptive, expository, and argumentative writing for a variety of purposes and to convey meaning, learn, and clarify thinking. A major research project is included.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Course Title: **Social Studies 7**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 7th grade students
Required course for middle school promotion

The intent of 7th grade Social Studies is to study diverse world cultures prior to the 18th century. Ancient history from 3000 B.C. to England in the late 18th century will be studied. Units will include the Roman Empire, the Roots of Islam, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asian Civilizations, Medieval Societies, Europe 1300-1600, Civilizations of the Americas and Europe 1600-1789.

Course Title: **Social Studies 8**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 8th grade students
Required course for middle school promotion

This course focuses on the growth and conflicts in early American history. It begins with a brief review of the significant events from the age of exploration and the colonial era. Students will then focus on the development of the United States by studying the American Revolutionary War, the Constitution, the divergent paths of the American people in various regions of country and the Civil War. This curriculum utilizes the California State Framework and the National Social Studies Standards.

Course Title: **World Geography**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 9th grade students
Required for high school graduation

This course is a combination of physical and cultural geography. Students utilize the five themes of Geography to guide their thinking about the world including location, place, movement, human environment, interaction and region. They also use the five themes to visit regions in the world. This includes both

current events and more historical study. Students leave World Geography with a definite understanding of geographic skills, of their world surroundings, the method to study these world cultural surroundings, and a survey of world culture, including concepts such as interdependence, diffusion, and trade.

Course Title: **World History**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 10th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 10th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

This course provides a survey of modern world history with an emphasis on historical method. The course begins with “Problems of Modernity” and continues with a thematic approach to the following issues and areas: Revolutionary Periods, the rise of Democracy, Imperialism and Colonialism, Totalitarianism and Nationalism. The course culminates with a study of the Paradoxes of the Modern Era. The course utilizes the California State Standards and National Standards in History.

Course Title: **U.S. History**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 11th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 11th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

In this course, students will examine the major turning points in American history in the twentieth century. The course begins with a review unit where students will focus on the nation’s beginnings and on the industrial transformation of the United States. The course continues by chronologically exploring the Progressive Era, the Age of Jazz, the Great Depression, both World Wars, the Cold War, and the Civil Rights Movement. The course culminates in an understanding of the major themes in U.S. History and their connection to current events.

Course Title: **Government**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 12th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

This semester-long course examines the roots of constitutional America by using primary source materials and historical method. It then undertakes the various facets within these constitutional roots: government branches, state vs. local government, and the courts. The course culminates with a comparative study of governments and an emphasis on contemporary issues. The course utilizes the California State Standards.

Course Title: **Economics**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 12th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

This is an advanced, semester-long course for seniors. It will provide a basic overview of all themes of the U.S. economy, how it affects the lives of its citizens, and how the consumer impacts the economy. Economic theories and their practical applications will also be examined.

Mathematics

Course Title: **Pre-Algebra**

Course Length: One Year

Grade Level: 7th Grade

Prerequisite: Required course for all 7th grade students

This course is designed to prepare students to be successful in Algebra I. This course reviews and develops skills in: real number computation, problem solving, estimation, and mental math. Additionally, it covers basic graphing, data analysis and geometry as well as simple probability and statistics.

Course Title: **Algebra I**

Course Length: One Year

Grade Level: 8th Grade

Prerequisite: Grade of “C-” or better in the second semester of Pre-Algebra
Required course for high school graduation

This is a one-year college preparatory course generally offered to eighth grade students with a sufficient background in pre-algebra. Students will use a variety of problem solving strategies in order to analyze problems and formulate appropriate solution strategies.

Course Title: **Geometry**

Course Length: One Year

Grade Level: 9th Grade

Prerequisite: Grade of “C-” or better in the second semester of Algebra I
Required for high school graduation

This two semester college preparatory course covers a variety of topics, including: axioms, theorems, and proofs; congruence, and similarity; area and perimeters of circles and polygons; tessellations. Students will also study the theory and applications of basic trigonometric functions, the Pythagorean Theorem, and the Golden Ratio.

Course Title: **Algebra II**

Course Length: One Year

Grade Level: Primarily 10th Grade

Prerequisite: Grade of “C-” or better in the second semester of Geometry
Required for high school graduation

Based on the California State Math Standards, this two-semester course explores and extends topics introduced in Algebra I. Topics include: solving equations, rational expressions, radicals, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometry, and elementary probability. This class is essential for chemistry and physics, is recommended by most four-year colleges, and fulfills the Natomas Charter School third year math requirement.

Course Title: **Precalculus**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 11th and 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “C-” or better in the second semester of Algebra II and teacher approval
Recommended for college entry

Two semesters long, this honors class explores the nature and behavior of mathematical functions. Topics include polynomial functions, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, systems of equations, complex numbers, matrices, advanced trigonometry, and polar coordinates. Special emphasis will be placed on the graphical treatment of functions and the use of a graphing calculator. This class is an important prerequisite for calculus and should be taken by students interested in math and science.

Course Title: **AP Calculus AB**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “C-” or better in Precalculus and teacher approval
Recommended for college entry

Advanced Placement Calculus AB is a two-semester AP course. A variety of topics will be covered including the three fundamental concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, and integrals. Students will learn both theory and applications. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are all emphasized throughout the course. Graphing calculators are used extensively for coursework, and are required for portions of the AP Examination.

SCIENCE

Course Title: **Science 7**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 7th grade students
Required course for middle school promotion

Based on the California State Science Standards, this class will focus on Life Science units covering Cell Biology, Evolution, Human Biology, and Heredity.

Course Title: **Science 8**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 8th grade students
Required course for middle school promotion

Based on the California State Science Standards, this course provides a study of Physical Science with units including Motion, Forces and Energy, Exploring the Universe, and Matter and Chemistry.

Course Title: **Health**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 9th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 9th grade students
Required course for high school graduation

This one semester class will focus on Health and Human Development, divided into eight major areas of study. The major areas are: Introduction to Health, Mental Health, Social Health, Human Development, Nutrition and Fitness, Substance Abuse, Preventing Disease and Contraception, and First Aid. Students will learn to foster a sense of personal responsibility for lifelong health, develop respect for the health of others, and learn to make informed decisions about health-related information, and products and services. In addition, students will also study the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and drug use.

Course Title: **Biology**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: Primarily 9th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for high school graduation
Recommended for college entry

This is a one-year college prep course designed to explore living things and their relationships to the environment. Topics covered include cell biology, biochemistry, ecology, genetics, evolution, anatomy, physiology, and microbiology.

Course Title: **Physical Science**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Recommended completion of Biology with a "C" or better
Required course for high school graduation in lieu of Chemistry

This course is designed to fulfill the basic high school graduation requirement. It is an integrated science course covering such topics as motion, heat, electricity, magnetism, waves, sound, and light. Topics from chemistry and geoscience will be included. The course will emphasize practical examples from daily life, demonstrations, and hands-on laboratory activities.

Course Title: **Chemistry**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 10th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I with a "C" or better
Completion of Biology with a "B" or better
Required course for high school graduation in lieu of Physical Science
Recommended for college entry

This is a one-year college prep course exploring the structure and properties of matter and its interactions. Areas of emphasis include conservation of matter, atomic and molecular structure, solutions, chemical bonds, stoichiometry, and nuclear processes.

Course Title: **Physics**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: Primarily 11th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II with a “C” or better
 Completion of Chemistry with a “C” or better
 Recommended for college entry

This is a one-year college prep course exploring the interaction of matter and energy. Topics covered include: motion, heat, magnetism and electricity, sound, light, and modern atomic physics. Emphasis will be placed on developing laboratory skills.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Course Title: **French 1**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None
 Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation and entry into CSU and UC system.

This course is designed to assist in developing cultural awareness and communication skills involved in reading, writing, and especially listening and speaking in the French language. Music and art will be used to help accomplish these goals.

Course Title: **French II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of French I with a “C” or better
 Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation and entry into CSU and UC system.

A continuation of French I, this course further develops the students cultural awareness and communication skills with reading, writing, and especially speaking in the French language. Students practice extensively in oral communication with classroom activities that are related to real-life situations and French culture.

Course Title: **French III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of French II with a “C” or better
 Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation
 Three years recommended for college admission

In this course, students of French will continue exploring the vocabulary and grammar of French. This will be done through rigorous grammatical exercises, focusing on complex sentence structure, the subjunctive mood, and conscious choice of the precise tense needed. Students will also read texts in the original French, and hold French language only in class discussions at least thrice weekly. Students are expected to have taken French I and II or the equivalent before enrolling in this course.

Course Title: **Spanish I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None
Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation and entry into CSU and UC system.

In this course, students will acquire an extensive and practical Spanish vocabulary. They will participate in a variety of classrooms activities including skits and role-playing dialogues which will enable them to acquire functional language skills (i.e. requesting information, expressions in emotions, talking about future plans, stating opinions). Basic grammatical structures are taught in English and then reinforced with oral exercises as well as languages games. Aspects of Spanish and Latin American culture are integrated into the course.

Course Title: **Spanish II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I with a “C” or better
Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation and entry into CSU and UC system.

In this second level language course, emphasis is placed on continuing the development of communication skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) with the incorporation of more complex sentence structures and a more extensive vocabulary. Students will further their understanding and appreciation of the Spanish language and Spanish speaking cultures.

Course Title: **Spanish III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish II with a “C” or better
Two years of a foreign language are required for high school graduation
Three years recommended for college admission

This course will provide students the opportunity to further develop their ability to read/write, think and speak Spanish with more fluency and accuracy. By the end of this course, students will have covered all the major tenses and grammatical structures. They will be exposed to a variety of authentic materials including music, which will be used to improve listening skills and focus on grammar and vocabulary. Students will be expected to interact with the Spanish speaking community.

ARTS/ELECTIVE COURSES

DANCE

Course Title: **Dance Preview**
Course Length: One Quarter
Grade Level: 6th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 6th grade students

This class will give the students a hands-on overview of the world of dance. Through movement, lecture and videos, students will explore the world of dance in its various forms.

Course Title: **Dance 7**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: 7th grade standing
All 7th grade students must take at least two Art 7 classes

The one-semester course is designed to give the student movement experiences and a fundamental knowledge of the basics of dance. Aspiring artists from all disciplines will gain valuable insights into mental focus, line, and rhythm.

Course Title: **Ballet I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: None
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This two-semester course is designed to give students a basic technical background in dance. The students will acquire flexibility, muscular strength and physical endurance, as well as a working knowledge of French dance terminology. This course is highly recommended to provide a solid technical base for all Level II dance classes. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Ballet II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Completion of Ballet I with a “B” or better and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

Ballet II is a two-semester intermediate level repeatable course designed for the students who wish to advance their basic ballet knowledge. This class will build upon concepts and skills learned in Ballet I.

Combinations at the barre and in the center will challenge the student to increase their technical level. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Ballet III/Pointe and Variation**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Completion of Ballet II with a “B” or better and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester advanced course designed for the serious dance student. The class will build technical skills with the addition of pointe work, variations, and pas de deux. The discipline required in the study of ballet results in an increase of self-motivation and self-esteem for the students. Students will become aware of influential people and key elements of ballet history. Yearly on-site stage productions will provide students with valuable performing experience. Advanced combinations will be stressed to prepare the student for performance at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Jazz Dance I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: None
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a beginning level two-semester course designed for the student with an interest in learning basic jazz dance techniques. The student will gain increased flexibility, strength, and physical fitness. An emphasis will be placed on learning and retaining choreographed dance sequences. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Jazz Dance II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Jazz Dance I and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester intermediate level class for the dance student with an emphasis on jazz techniques and styles. The class will build upon the knowledge and skills learned in Jazz Dance I. An emphasis will be placed on more complex combinations and intense aerobic workout. The class will provide the student with a strong sense of discipline of mind and body, as well as a heightened level of physical health. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Jazz Dance III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Jazz II and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester advanced level class for the dance student with an emphasis on jazz techniques, styles, and production. The class will build upon the skills acquired in Jazz Dance II. Students in this class will

begin to experience the excitement of performing along with the joy of creating in their own unique styles. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Modern Dance I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: None
 May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester beginning level course designed for the student interested in learning basic Modern Dance techniques. The student will gain increased flexibility, strength, physical fitness and musicality. An emphasis will be placed on floor work, standing work, movement across the floor, as well as combinations to build on. Students will also be exploring improvisation and composition. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Modern Dance II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Modern Dance I and Teacher approval
 May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester, intermediate level class for the student with an emphasis on modern techniques and styles. The class will expand on the techniques learned in Modern Dance I. More advanced floor work, standing work, locomotor movements and combinations will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on performing and creating in various modern styles. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Modern Dance III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Modern Dance II and teacher approval
 May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester, advance level course designed to challenge and refine techniques learned in Modern Dance II, along with an increased development of artistry. There will be a strong emphasis placed on composition and performance allowing the student to explore their own creativity. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Tap Dance I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: None
 May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester, introductory level class in which students will study various styles of Tap and the rhythms needed to perform these styles. Students will need to acquire a pair of tap shoes to participate. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Tap Dance II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Tap Dance I and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester, intermediate level class in which students will study various styles of Tap. This class is for the serious tap student who is willing to explore new techniques and styles. Students will build on and expand techniques learned in Tap I, including work in Rhythm Tap. Emphasis will be placed on progressing the students from classroom to stage performance. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Tap Dance III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Tap Dance II and teacher approval
May be used to qualify for high school P.E. credit

This is a two-semester advanced level class designed to challenge and refine tap techniques previously learned. A refinement of style and artistry will be emphasized. This class is for the serious tap student who is willing to explore new techniques and styles such as: Irish Dancing, Clogging, and Rhythm Tap. There will be a strong emphasis placed on composition and performance, allowing students to explore their own creativity. Students enrolled in this course will be performing at the end of the school year.

Course Title: **Dance Company**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Audition Only

This is an advanced level course for the serious dance student who is possibly interested in a performing career. Students will learn different dances from various choreographers, giving them a much needed versatility. The student must demonstrate a proficiency in dance technique and the ability to work as a performer in various styles both classical and modern. Class will be held in rehearsal format and students must be taking another intermediate or advanced level dance technique class during the day. Some weekend rehearsals may be required. Performances will take place both on campus and in the community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As part of Natomas Charter School’s Performing and Fine Arts Academy graduation requirements, students must complete at least 20 credits of Physical Education (P.E.) in high school. Because the Performing and Fine Arts Academy is a unique and specialized school, students may complete these credits through a variety of means:

- A) Any approved on-site dance class
- B) Any other on-site arts course qualified by school for P.E. (Stretch and Strengthening, Voice and Movement)

- C) Supervised, independent physical activity done outside of school (1 unit = 20 hours of approved physical activity)

MUSIC

Course Title: **Music Preview**
Course Length: One Quarter
Grade Level: 6th Grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 6th grade students

This project based class will foster a student's appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of music. Students will write and record an original song and discover their intuitive musical abilities. Students will learn to use a set of objective criteria that will allow them to analyze the aesthetic, historical and cultural significance of music in their lives. Students will learn basic music and computer skills through the process of recording their original projects.

Course Title: **Music 7**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: 7th grade standing or teacher recommendation
All 7th grade students must take at least two Art 7 classes

This one-semester course will give students an introduction to music theory through a practical, hands-on approach. The focus of the class will be how to use theoretical music concepts to write music. Students will gain a fundamental knowledge of theory and apply it to a final project writing and incorporating music into a play in collaboration with the Drama Theory and Technique class.

Course Title: **Vocal Workshop I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: None

Vocal Workshop I initiates and promotes skill, technique, and style development in vocal performance. Beginning, intermediate, and advanced students are evaluated and supported in their work toward improvement beyond their individual skill levels. In addition to vocal technique, also covered are areas including: physical anatomy for singers, musical vernacular, basic music theory, stage presence, international style and foreign language pronunciation. By the end of the school year, students shall have a portfolio of music they are able to perform individually and in concert with other students in small and large group works. Additionally, they will be prepared for a basic vocal audition.

Course Title: **Vocal Workshop II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th grade
Prerequisite: Vocal Workshop, Natomas Choir, and teacher approval

Vocal Workshop II continues skill, theory, technique, and style development in vocal performance relative to musical theatre presentations, solo work, and more complex choral work. Intermediate and advanced students are evaluated and supported in their work toward improvement in their individual skill levels. In addition to vocal technique and stage presence, staging, movement, storytelling through music, harmony and a history of musical theatre will be included in this course. By the end of the school year, the student shall have a portfolio of music they are able to perform. Additionally, they will be fully prepared for a musical theatre audition. Students will also be taught sufficient piano skills so that they can play their own vocal line.

Course Title: **Natomas Choir**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Choral experience and/or Vocal Workshop recommended

This choir is designed for all seventh to twelfth grade students who wish to learn and improve their sight-singing abilities, ear training, harmonizing, vocal technique and musicianship and professional etiquette in the context of a choir. Various styles of music will be learned, including classical, Broadway, gospel, pop, and many others.

Course Title: **Jazz Vocal Ensemble**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Vocal Workshop/Teacher Recommendation

Course Title: **NCS Vocal Ensemble**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Audition only, 3.0 GPA with no grade below a "C"

This advanced vocal music class will develop skills and techniques in the area of music and movement. They will work on significantly advanced music in many genres, more fully developing their vocal technique, professionalism, and presentational quality. They will perform as representatives for Natomas Charter School at events and functions around California. They will also compete at festivals and competitions.

Course Title: **Advanced Theory**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade with Instructor Approval
Prerequisite: Students must be able to read and write musical notation, intermediate music skills in voice or on an instrument.

This course is designed for serious high school musicians. It will cover topics such as: tonality, harmony, melody, texture, form, modulation, analysis, ear training, sight singing, dictation, composition, and arranging.

Course Title: **Beginning Strings**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn individual string instrument technique and basic musicianship, while developing ensemble skills as an orchestra musician.

Course Title: **String Orchestra**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Successful completion of one year of Beginning Strings or by audition

String Orchestra offers continued instruction in violin, viola, cell and string bass for second, third, and fourth year students. Students will study a variety of string orchestra literature as well as build on their individual instrument technique and musicianship. String Orchestra students will have performance opportunities during the school year.

Course Title: **Symphony Orchestra**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Audition and/or successful completion of one year of String Orchestra, Concert Band, Stage Band, or Percussion Ensemble

Symphony Orchestra is designed for advanced music students studying strings, bass, woodwind, or percussion. Students will have the opportunity to study and perform a variety of challenging full orchestra literature. Symphony Orchestra students are recommended to take the class in conjunction with a string/wind/percussion ensemble course. Exceptions are made with instructor approval.

Course Title: **Show Band**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Audition Only

In this class, students will perform in a large contemporary music ensemble. Students will learn to apply professional music skills such as practice and rehearsal techniques, ensemble playing, music theory, arranging, improvising and scoring. Students will become familiar with contemporary styles from many cultures. The group will document their work through recording twice a year. The ensemble will perform a minimum of two shows per year, as well as participating in judged music festivals.

Course Title: **Stage Band**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: Ability to sight read music on chosen instrument/two years suggested previous experience

This intermediate class offers students the chance to learn to play a variety of styles of music arranged for "Jazz Ensembles". This course is designed for students with two or more years of previous music instruction. Acceptable instruments for this ensemble are: trumpet, trombone, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, bass, guitar, and drums. Students are encouraged to provide their own instruments for this class. The school has a limited number of instruments available.

Course Title: **Introduction To The Recording Arts**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: All
Prerequisite: At least one year of experience on an instrument
Qualifies for high school technology credit

In this class students will learn audio production techniques and develop their instrumental skills. Students will also cover basic form and analysis, music theory, composition and writing lyrics. This class is designed to be a hands-on applied skills class. Students will practice and perform in class throughout the year, alone and in small groups. Students will be involved in projects that reinforce the class concepts. Audio production is a wide field, and the class will cover many aspects including scientific principles, signal flow, live sound reinforcement, digital recording and editing, multitrack recording, signal processing, and Garage Band.

Course Title: **Beginning Percussion**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th -12th grade
Prerequisite: None

This class is open to all students desiring the opportunity to learn how to play percussion (drums). Students will develop skills for reading and playing music for drums. They will also learn to play by ear and improvise within a small ensemble. This class is also suggested for students that play an instrument other than percussion and want to improve their rhythmic skills.

Course Title: **Percussion Ensemble**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th -12th grade
Prerequisite: Grade of "B" or better in Beginning Percussion and/or teacher Approval

Students who already know the fundamentals of percussion and rhythm will have the opportunity to play in small and large ensembles. They will perform at least three times throughout the course of the year. At least one time will be off campus. Students will also learn and perform solos for in-class performances. They will finish with a firm grasp of reading music for percussion and a sense of teamwork. Students are expected to supply their own drumsticks and mallets.

Course Title: **Beginning Woodwinds and Brass**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th -12th grade
Prerequisite: None

This beginning level class offers the students the chance to learn to play a woodwind or brass instrument. This course is designed for students without any previous music instruction, although students who would like to review introductory level instructional curriculum are welcome. Students can choose to learn: flute, clarinet, or trumpet. Students are encouraged to provide their own instruments for this class. The school does have a limited number of instruments available.

Course Title: **Concert Band**
Course Length: One Semester

Grade Level: 7th -12th grade
Prerequisite: Must have previous instrumental music experience

This performance oriented ensemble is open to woodwind, bass, and percussion players. Class focus will be on developing and refining individual and group rehearsal and performance techniques. Students will be exposed to a variety of styles and genres.

Course Title: **Piano Workshop**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th -12th grade
Prerequisite: None

This is a beginning through advanced level class that will provide students with the opportunity to work, at an individual pace, on fundamentals of keyboard playing and musical styling and interpretation. Students will be expected to apply class material and concepts to their individual daily practice time.

DRAMA

Course Title: **Drama Preview**
Course Length: One Quarter
Grade Level: 6th grade
Prerequisite: Required course for all 6th grade students

This is a nine-week course designed to give students exciting, hands-on experiences. To help students develop an appreciation for the live theatre, concepts will be taught through the use of theatre games, exercises, and scripted material. Students will be introduced to theater terminology, as well as various acting and vocal techniques. They will also gain an understanding of the self discipline expected by the Drama Department, should they choose to focus on acting in middle and high school.

Course Title: **Drama 7**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th grade
Prerequisite: 7th Grade standing
All 7th grade students must take at least two Art 7 classes.

This class is designed to provide a foundation for students in drama theory and practice. Basic skills studied will be: stage movement, focus, character analysis, breathing/projection, and diction. Students will build scenes, rehearse one-act plays, and finally perform a script for a select audience.

Course Title: **Acting I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th - 12th grade
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to provide a foundation for students in basic acting techniques. Basic skills studied will be: stage movement, focus, character analysis, breathing/projection, and diction. Students will

memorize, rehearse and perform monologues and scenes from published plays as well as write their own material. This course culminates with a public performance showcase.

Course Title: **Acting II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Acting I and teacher approval

This is an essential class for the serious acting student. In depth instruction, examples and advice will be provided for improving acting techniques, developing stage presence, memorization, and advanced character analysis. Student actors will participate in group and individual processes commonly used throughout a rehearsal period. The course begins with preparing Shakespearean monologues for auditions and then moves to scene study of contemporary American playwrights from the 1950s to the present. The course culminates with a public performance showcase at the end of the year.

Course Title: **Acting III**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Acting II and teacher Approval

This class is designed to assist the experienced acting student in the development and refinement of their craft, from the audition process through the rehearsal period and finally into performance. Through advanced scene study, students will fully analyze the material for content, character analysis, and production values. The students will utilize their skills and demonstrate their understanding of the concepts in level performances opportunities. The class will also explore alternative approaches to the study of acting, including Meisner technique, experimental theater, and Commedia Del Arte. The course culminates with a public performance showcase.

Course Title: **Acting for the Camera**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Acting I/Teacher Recommendation

Course Title: **Filmmaking I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This class is designed for the beginning filmmaker, or anyone who has ever had an interest in making movies. The course will lead the student through basic film terminology, use of basic equipment including cameras, lights, microphones, and editing software. The course will also introduce the student to basic elements of script writing and formatting as well as basic storytelling. Students will also be introduced to an overview of film history, the origins of the medium, and the industry of filmmaking. Through this course, students will acquire the skills they need to make movies for their classes at Natomas Charter School or at home for their own purposes.

Course Title: **Directing**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Acting II/Teacher Recommendation

In this intense Theatre Arts Workshop the experienced actor will develop the skills necessary to create pieces of theatre with their own directorial concepts. Students will learn to communicate ideas, create stage pictures and become leaders as they become more well- rounded theatre artists. Topics will include elements of Composition, Picturization, Movement, Rhythm and Dramatic Pantomime.

Course Title: **Theatre Production**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Audition/teacher approval

This audition only class will consist of the cast, musicians, and crew members of this year’s fall play (insert play name here). Students will be required to attend after school rehearsals, photo calls, and performances. Production students are expected to conduct themselves as professional theatre practitioners with all the responsibilities of serious performers and crewmembers. Students will also assist in the preparation for theatre festivals and competitions. The year will culminate in a one-act festival.

Course Title: **Theatre Workshop**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Acting I and Teacher Approval

The focus of Theatre Workshop will be on student created theatrical works, with an emphasis on playwriting. In this dynamic workshop environment, students will learn how to take an idea and turn it into a character driven dialogue piece for the stage. This playwriting, acting and directing lab is a must for any drama student who wants the opportunity to experience every aspect of bringing an original play to life. This class will have one public stages reading.

Course Title: **Stagecraft I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

The focus of this class will be on learning the basics of technical theatre with a focus on set design and construction. Students will be introduced to the ideas behind the four major areas of design: sets, lighting, costume and sound as well as stage crews and management. This class will be directly related to the performance needs of PFAA and will help to support all major productions.

Course Title: **Stagecraft II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Completion of Stagecraft I, Teacher Approval

This class is designed to be an in depth study of design as it pertains to technical theatre. This class will be directly related to the performance needs of PFAA and will help to support all major productions. Students will be working directly with power tools in a construction environment.

VISUAL ART

Course Title: **Art Preview**
Course Length: One Quarter
Grade Level: 6th Grade
Prerequisite: Required for 6th grade students

This class introduces students to sculpture, painting, drawing, and printmaking. They will learn basic art vocabulary and study the elements of design. In addition, students will explore other culture's art forms and concepts, and apply these ideas to their own work.

Course Title: **Visual Art 7**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 7th Grade
Prerequisite: All 7th grade students must take at least two Art 7 classes

This class is designed to provide a foundation for students in the art elements and principles, and media handling. Historical art movement and world culture art forms will be studied in conjunction with projects that involve techniques in drawing, painting, collage and sculpture.

Course Title: **Painting I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 7th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This is a beginning level painting and design class. Students will explore the elements and principles of design and apply these to individual compositions. Fundamental painting techniques in tempera, watercolor, acrylic, and gouache will be explored.

Course Title: **Drawing I**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None
Lab Fee

This class is an introduction and application of the most basic of all visual art forms. In order to create and explore artistic expressions, you must learn the fundamentals. Students will study the basic techniques of line drawing, shading, proportions, and perspective as they pertain to portraiture, still life, landscapes, and figurative drawings.

Course Title: **Drawing II**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of "B" or better in Drawing I and teacher approval

In this class students will expand upon techniques learned in Drawing I. Students will explore line drawing, shading, and perspective as they pertain to portraiture, still life, landscape, and figure drawing. Students will explore different mediums in drawing including pencil, charcoal, and ink. An emphasis will be placed on composition. Art preparation for display and competitive exhibit will be encouraged.

Course Title: **Photography**
Length: One year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Drawing I and teacher approval
Lab Fee

This course is an introduction to the formal, expressive and technical aspects of black and white darkroom photography, including the development of creative skills and aesthetic appreciation of photography as art. Subjects covered will include the following; camera types and operation, exposure, lighting, composition, film types, film processing, and photographic printing. Emphasis will be placed on learning to see photographically and translating personal vision into photographic imagery.

Course Title: **Scenic Art Design and Muraling**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Drawing I and Drawing II or teacher approval

This is an intermediate level design and painting class. Students will explore the elements and principles of design and complete both individual compositions and group projects. Large and mural format works will focus on scenic and painting techniques to be displayed both on and off campus. Art as a tool for building community will be promoted.

Course Title: **Ceramics**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None
Lab Fee

This course introduces basic hand building techniques with clay (not wheel throwing), basic glazing and surface treatments, and kiln firing. Students will also study the history of ceramic arts from different world cultures.

TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL ARTS

Course Title: **Multimedia**
Course Length: One Year

Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Basic Technology
Qualifies for high school technology credit

This course will introduce you to several elements that make up multimedia. These elements will include digital slideshows, video editing, website creation, the use of scanners, and CD-ROM burners. The second semester will focus on basic technology.

Course Title: **Video Game Design**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 8th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: None

This course takes students through the creative game-making process from theory to project completion. Students will use the Unity 3D game engine to create a variety of games playable on multiple formats (Mac, Windows, online, iPhone). Students will learn the history and complete process of game design as well as applicable careers in the industry. Game worlds, characters, artificial intelligence, level design and physics will be introduced during the course. An introduction to basic C# programming will also be covered. This course will emphasize individual as well as team design production.

Course Title: **2D Digital Art**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: None (basic computer experience recommended)
Qualifies for high school technology credit
Lab Fee

This course will introduce you to how technology and art can work together to produce some of the most amazing work around. Students will use Coreliss Painter and Wacom drawing tablet. Using digital media allows us to display any natural media possible. Students will create original pieces, photo touchups, and animated shorts. Finished images will all be burned to CD-ROM at the end of the year to be viewed at home.

Course Title: **3D Digital Art**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Grade of “B” or better in Digital I and teacher approval
Qualifies for high school technology credit
Lab Fee

This course will introduce you to 3D computer graphics and animation. Students will use Lightwave 3D to model, texture, and animate their ideas. Students of this class should have a strong grasp of general computer usage. In this class students will create characters, environments, special effects, and design elements that can be used for film/video, web, and print.

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Course Title: **Senior Project/Senior Portfolio**
Course Length: One Year (One Semester Each)
Grade Level: 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Required for all seniors
Required for high school graduation

This two-semester class is designed to assist seniors in completing both their senior demonstration project and their cumulative electronic portfolio. Seniors will alternate semesters between the two areas of the senior portfolio and senior project. One semester seniors will be scheduled in the computer lab to prepare their senior portfolio. In the alternating semester, seniors will work with one of the senior project advisors to prepare their senior project and presentation. Each semester will culminate with an assessment of a portion of the senior project and electronic portfolio.

Course Title: **Yearbook**
Course Length: One Year
Grade Level: 9th-12th Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher Approval

Yearbook is a year long course dedicated to the design and publication of the school yearbook. Students enrolled in this course will get experience with technology, graphic layout and design, and marketing the yearbook.

Course Title: **Teacher Assistant**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Teacher request

High school students may only become (and receive elective credits for) student assistants upon the specific request of a teacher.

Course Title: **Office Assistant**
Course Length: One Semester
Grade Level: 9th – 12th Grade
Prerequisite: Office Staff request

High school students enrolled in this class will receive elective credit for assisting the school office staff with answering phones, running errands, and organizing paperwork. Students will learn the routines and skills needed for daily office administration.

NCS Performing And Fine Arts Academy

Vision Statement

The Performing and Fine Arts Academy of Natomas Charter School will be a high quality educational program for students in grades 6 – 12 that develops the whole-person through a curriculum that integrates the performing arts and college preparatory academics. We aim to develop the students academically, artistically, and socially so they leave the school as independent, cooperative, responsible, and creative young adults with a lifelong interest in learning and the arts. We believe these skills and qualities will prepare or students to pursue to further educational goals and allow them to contribute to the life and well being of society as a whole.

Our vision includes the belief that:

- A strong academic program unlocks and supports the artistic potential of our students.
- The best discipline comes from a commitment to shared goals.
- The performing and fine arts encourage each individual to work in a creative, cooperative and collaborative manner while promoting independent thinking.
- Students learn best in a participative and creative environment placed within a firm framework of high standards in teaching and learning.
- Students need an understanding of, and access to, developing technologies in order to encourage participation and leadership in a technologically developing society.

Our program graduates students who will then have the option to pursue further studies in either the arts or academics at two-year or four-year institutions of higher learning.

