



ArtQuest

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

for School Year 2009-10 Entry

ArtQuest is a public school program for students for whom creativity and artistic expression is of paramount importance. At the heart of artistically rich and diverse Sonoma County, ArtQuest at Santa Rosa High School offers an "above and beyond" experience in the Visual and Performing Arts. At ArtQuest, the passion, commitment and discipline of the arts is connected to the energy of academic learning, inspired by guest artists, enlarged by meaningful offsite visits, exhibits and performances, enriched by its proximity to Santa Rosa Junior College, the Santa Rosa Community Media Center and numerous nearby cultural organizations, and nurtured by generous parent, community and business support. ArtQuest is a place where students from all over the county, and beyond, come together as young artists to exhibit, perform and begin to build their dreams into realities and to pursue artful lives, wherever they may lead.

Arts Specialties ArtQuest offers eight arts disciplines as specialty focuses and students enroll for two hours daily in their specialty in most levels and areas. In the Visual Arts, Specialties include Digital Arts, Photography, Video Arts and Visual Fine Arts. In the Performing Arts AQ offers Dance, Theatre Arts, and Vocal and Instrumental Music. Curriculum is organized around the California Content Standards and Framework for the Visual and Performing Arts which incorporate five component strands of arts education: Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Historical and Cultural Context, Aesthetic Valuing, and Connections, Relationships and Applications.

Visual Arts:

DIGITAL ARTS

Digital Arts offers a strong foundation in the visual language of art while focusing on computer skills, various painting/drawing/image manipulation software programs, color, composition, and 2-D and 3-D animation. Explorations in lighting, viewpoint, texture, surfaces, modeling and symbolism are all used as ways to create powerful and meaningful works of art, as students are challenged to build on technical skills and to explore personal artistic possibilities. Sketchbook/Journal entries and participation in personal and group critiques are both requirements. Students work independently as well as within small groups, practicing the creative problem-solving skills and collaboration needed in the professional world of one of the fastest growing fields in the arts and computer industry. Risk-taking, discipline, dedication to excellence and high-level achievement are all key elements in the Digital Arts Specialty.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In a studio environment, students of varying levels are engaged as emerging artists and professionals in the Photography Specialty. Students are challenged to explore possibilities for visual communication, using a careful, disciplined approach teamed with an extensive commitment to the care of equipment and materials. Curriculum is sequentially designed to develop the "photographer's eye" and to familiarize the student with his/her camera. Art elements and principles are taught in terms of photographic composition, technical and conceptual concerns. Students shoot and process their own 35 mm black and white film and enlarge prints from the negatives, using fundamental darkroom, as well as creative, non-darkroom techniques. Using the skills and knowledge acquired initially, students experiment further with more advanced problems, including more involved darkroom techniques, various photographic papers, films, filters and digital photography. Students expand their learning with readings, field trips, gallery reviews, guest artist visits, research papers, in-depth critique and mentoring less experienced students. **Please Note:** Students must have access to a 35 mm SLR (Single Lens Reflex) camera for their use while enrolled in AQ Photography.

VIDEO ARTS

The Video Arts Specialty introduces and begins to prepare students to work in the fields of video, television or film production. Students learn to use video camcorders and computer-based editing systems to produce a variety of work and genres and are also encouraged to access the professional facilities of the Santa Rosa Community Media Center located on campus. Both live action and animation are incorporated and diverse approaches explored, giving students a foundation in single and multiple camera recording styles and techniques. Post-production experiences include signal processing, audio enhancements and special effects. Students employ aesthetic choice and judgment skills and investigate potential applications and adaptations to career and personal goals.

VISUAL FINE ARTS

In the Visual Fine Arts Specialty, students develop a breadth and depth of technical skills and conceptual concerns through the use of a wide range of materials and resources. Drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking, installation and other traditional and contemporary forms are explored, incorporating preparatory studies, research, written reflection, statements and complex series of interrelated pieces. Observation, memory and imagination are engaged, while building a strong foundation in the elements and principles of art. Using the annual ArtQuest theme and other cultural and personal concerns, students are challenged to investigate, inform, comment and inspire. Critical thinking, creative problem-solving and unique solutions are actively supported, with critique used to hone awareness of aesthetic preferences and choice and to evaluate and improve work. Diverse perspectives on arts history and heritage are interwoven and frequent gallery, museum and other arts site visits included. A wide range of arts-related career and higher education opportunities are presented, often with guest artists and presenters. Community building, cooperation, collaboration, personal responsibility, accountability, discipline and focus are curricular essentials, with the goal of living a meaningful and artful life at its heart.



ArtQuest

CURRICULUM SUMMARY, Continued

for School Year 2009-10 Entry

Performing Arts:

DANCE

The Dance Specialty focuses on the development of technical and conceptual skills in the expressive language of Dance, encouraging students to communicate through movement. Students explore artistic perception and the creative process by solving problems in choreography and performance. Guest artists expand students' awareness of diverse cultural and historical perspectives of dance as well as different dance styles. A blend of contemporary and more traditional strategies are used to make dances, sometimes integrating components of text or responding to the environment for a site specific piece, for example. Individual focus, as well as group camaraderie, is required and students perform in a wide variety of settings. By pursuing meaning in the arts through the practice, discipline and rigor of dance, students often find considerable personal satisfaction, as well as multiple ways to apply creative problem-solving, critical thinking and positive focus to many areas of their lives and work.

THEATRE ARTS

The Theatre Arts program is designed as an intensive actor-training conservatory for talented and motivated students who have designated Theatre Arts as their special interest. This setting requires strong self-motivation, discipline, and the ability to focus one's attention sharply, immediately, and for long periods of time. It also demands quick and substantial line memorization, the capability to change and to follow succinct directions, advanced oral reading skills and critical thinking skills for detailed analysis of scenes from published plays. Vulnerability, openness to all points of view, life-styles and creeds, the desire to openly apply personal experiences from one's life, and the willingness to risk one's self-image are also necessary. Beyond this, the program requires that students fully participate as members of an acting ensemble dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the dramatic arts, while testing one's limitations or fears in the process. This program does *not* emphasize the possible development of future "stars"; students must want to be here *for the work*, and have a passion to affect others, to give of one's self, and an intense desire to make art through drama.

MUSIC

Students in the Music Specialty may choose from a wide range of class offerings either in Instrumental or Vocal Music or a combination of both *if possible in the schedule and if appropriate for student level.*; the diversity of options and depth of focus are unique in the region for a high. Most class levels are determined through audition.

Instrumental Music

Five Instrumental Music groups maintain a busy and rewarding public performance schedule with the curriculum focusing primarily on the day-to-day rehearsal, exploration and discipline of music. Level placement is determined by audition but please note that there is *no Beginning level classes available.* The *Concert Band* is comprised of mostly freshmen and sophomores and the advanced level *Symphonic Band* is primarily staffed with juniors and seniors. The *Jazz Ensemble* and the *Chamber Winds Ensemble* meet after typical school hours; both require students to also be concurrently enrolled in one of the regular bands. A *String Orchestra* is also offered and is the only one of its kind at the high school level in Sonoma County.

Vocal Music

Upon acceptance into the ArtQuest Vocal Music Specialty, students will be placed in *ACapella, Las Choralistas or Concert Choir.* To be a member of *Chamber Singers*, the most selective and advanced choir, a student must first be placed in *Concert Choir.* Each group performs at three to four main concerts a year, as well as several other choral events, including the annual California Music Educators Association sponsored festival. All choral music classes focus on the day-to-day rehearsal process. It is also a goal of the program to build musicians out of singers; this means the continuing development of music reading skills, including interval recognition, rhythmic proficiency and building musical vocabulary. As a member of one or more of these choirs, students have the opportunity to participate in a program known for years as one that builds musical skills, life skills and lifetime friendships. Students are encouraged to not only pursue and develop their talents, but also to share them with others in a way that can make a difference in people's lives. Passionate, dedicated and ambitious singers are welcome in the Choral Program.

AQ Core-Related Classes

Special ArtQuest-related Core classes may be requested and are connected to ArtQuest, with teachers collaborating through an annual program-wide theme, as well as within individual lessons or units. Recognizing the importance of critical thinking, creative problem solving, and the need to understand and communicate in many arenas, classes are designed to support learning in multifaceted, engaging ways and students are encouraged to incorporate their arts specialty into class projects and presentations. Diverse learning styles are addressed, using a variety of teaching strategies including direct instruction, reading, writing, discussions, oral presentations, films, individual and group work, guest artists, field trips and other arts-based projects and methods. Curriculum is aligned with the *California State Subject Matter Frameworks and Standards.* AQ Academic and Honors English classes offer a challenging literature-based curriculum featuring varied viewpoints. AQ Academic World History students examine major turning points of the modern world from the late eighteenth century to the present and focus on understanding historical events from a variety of perspectives and cultural stances. AQ Academic Physical Science begins to help students understand a variety of Earth Science perspectives and basic knowledge, including environmental concerns. Santa Rosa High School offers many other options, including additional Honors and Advanced Placement classes, and a uniquely full range of science, math, foreign language, agriculture and vocational classes. Students may take classes at the adjacent campus of Santa Rosa Junior College and may join and use the Santa Rosa Media Center, an on-campus public access television production facility.