

University High School **Performing Fine Arts Magnet**



UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
Performing Fine Arts Magnet

2022 – 2023 Student Handbook

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Our Mission



The goal of the University High School Performing Fine Arts Magnet Program is 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 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!

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 their freshman year. Additionally, students are invited to take their first year of World Language on campus but are expected to take their second year online.

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.

Track-Specific Courses

Each performance track within the magnet program offers different course progressions for the three magnet classes. A full magnet schedule means that students are enrolled in two track specific courses as laid out in each track progression. The third course listed as "Magnet Elective," is a course approved by the magnet faculty. Following the collegiate model, in the 9th and 10th grade, exceptions to the "magnet elective" will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but will typically be limited to courses needed for graduation. Students in their Junior and Senior year are expected to be enrolled in three UPFA approved courses.

Dance Track

The **DANCE TRACK** 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
Required Course	• Ballet 1	• Ballet 2	• Ballet 3	• Ballet 4
Required Course	• Dance Repertory 1	• Dance Repertory 2	• Dance Repertory 3	• Dance Repertory 4
Magnet Course 3	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective

*Dance Company is an auditioned course within the dance track and may take the place of the third magnet course.

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.

Band Students

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	• Band 3	• Band 4	• Band 5 Honors	• Band 6 Honors
Required Course	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory
Required Course	• Jazz Ensemble 1 • Steel Drums	• Jazz Ensemble 2 • Steel Drums	• Jazz Ensemble 3 • Steel Drums	• Jazz Ensemble 4 • Steel Drums

*Band students have three required courses beginning in their sophomore year.

Guitar Students

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	• Guitar 1	• Guitar 2	• Guitar 3	• Guitar 4
Required Course	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory
Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective

*It is highly recommended that our guitar students add an ensemble as their last magnet course: Chorus, Band/Jazz Band/Steel Drums, or Orchestra. A Theatre or Dance course will also be approved.

Piano Students

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	• Keyboard 1	• Keyboard 2	• Keyboard 3	• Keyboard 4
Required Course	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory
Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective	• *Magnet Elective

*It is highly recommended that our Piano students add an ensemble as their second magnet course: Chorus, Band/Jazz Band, or Orchestra. A Theatre or Dance course will also be approved.

Orchestra Students

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	• Orchestra 3	• Orchestra 4	• Orchestra 5 Honors	• Orchestra 6 Honors
Required Course	• Instrumental Techniques 1	• Instrumental Techniques 2	• Instrumental Techniques 3	• Instrumental Techniques 4
Required Course	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory

*Orchestra students have three required courses beginning in their sophomore year.

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
Required Course	• Chorus 3	• Chorus 4	• Chorus 5 Honors	• Chorus 6 Honors
Required Course	• Vocal Techniques 1	• Vocal Techniques 2	• Vocal Techniques 3 • Musical Theatre 1 (based on audition)	• Vocal Techniques 4 • Musical Theatre 2
Required Course	• Keyboard • Guitar	• Music History	• Music Theory 2 Honors	• AP Music Theory

*Vocal Magnet students have required courses all four years.

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	• IB Theatre Arts 1 OR • Technical Theatre 3	• IB Theatre Arts 3 OR • Technical Theatre 4
Required Course	• Technical Theatre 1	• Technical Theatre 2	• Directing 1	• Playwriting, Tech. Th. 4 OR • An AP Elective Course
Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective	• Approved Magnet Elective

*Students in the Theatre track will be participating in IB Theatre Arts instead of Acting for their junior and senior years. This allows our students to participate in collegiate level course work, valued as 6.0 on our normal 4.0 GPA scale. During their senior year, students will complete Internal Assessments that will be graded by UPFA Teachers, as well as the International Baccalaureate Organization. If graded as a pass by the IBO, then students may be granted college credit, based on the College or University's credit acceptance policy. Technical theatre students are encouraged to take the IB Course to have the opportunity to earn college credit but have the option of remaining in technical theatre if so desired.

Approved Magnet Electives

Drawing	Ceramics	AP Art Course(s)	Chorus	Band
Orchestra	Theatre 1 (for non-theatre track students)	Dance Techniques (for non-dance track students)	Keyboard	Guitar
AP Human Geography	Technical Theatre	Musical Theatre (Auditioned)		

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 our magnet counselor, Mr. Alan Jennings (Zachary.jennings@ocps.net) 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.

Parent board statement

Recital Information

A goal of the Performing Arts Magnet Program is to provide students with opportunities to showcase their work and observe performances by peers in a positive, supportive environment. The magnet holds mandatory quarterly recitals to provide these opportunities. **Teachers for each track (Vocal, Band, Orchestra, Guitar and Piano, Dance and Theater) will select up to two performances for each recital.**

If you are selected to perform you will report IMMEDIATELY to the PAC after school on the day of the recital for a rehearsal. At 1:45 the doors will open, and the recital will begin at 2:00 p.m. with an end time of 3:00 PM. Students are required to remain for the full duration of the recital; attendance will be taken for each track. 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 recital is to give our students a place to perform and share their art with peers and mentors. This not only builds individual confidence but also brings our magnet community together.

Recital 1	10/5
Recital 2	12/7
Recital 3	SENIOR SHOWCASE 3/1
Recital 4	5/17

Recital Dress

Selected performers should have a discussion with their track leader about the appropriate attire for their performance. Track leaders will check-in with their performers during the dress rehearsal, and have the right to remove any event they believe does not meet the discussed performance attire.

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 rehearsals and performances for their own track, in addition to 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, they will be placed on probation the following semester.

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 parent or guardian's 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, they will be placed on probation the following semester.

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 probation and recommendation for removal 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 (minimum 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 recommended for removal from the magnet program at the end of the fall semester.

Probation Policy

When any student in the Performing Fine Arts Magnet is placed on probation, students will be notified by the UHS Magnet Coordinator and/or Magnet Department Chair of this probation. They will be given a form that includes the reason for probation, which will need to be reviewed by the student and parent and be signed and returned to the Magnet Coordinator.

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

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

Students on probation may be prohibited from participating in outside of UHS performances, such as field trips, overnight trips, based on the magnet track in which the student participates.

Dismissal from the Magnet Program

Students placed on probation for a semester may be removed from the program if the probationary issue has not been resolved, by the end of the probationary period. If a student dismissed from the magnet is not zoned for University High School, they will return to their home school. If a University High School zoned student is removed from the magnet program, their course schedule may be adjusted to fit the needs of University High School, based on class size, magnet specific course requirements, and student graduation requirements. 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



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