

Fine Arts Department

A minimum of 1.0 FA credit is required

One fine arts credit is required for graduation in the Helena School district. However, students may take multiple art classes every year and apply the credits toward the seven elective credits required for graduation. Upon completion of the foundations course, Art I, serious students can explore advanced art courses with the opportunity to receive college credit in AP classes.

The atmosphere of a class in the Art Department is different from any other class in school. There is a relaxed feeling as students quietly and enthusiastically work at their own projects: ceramics, stained glass, printmaking, batik, photography, drawing, painting, and sculpting. The studio atmosphere offers a break from the traditional classroom. Students are encouraged to connect to the larger world through the creation of original works that express their unique experiences. Lectures and demonstrations bring the class together on some days, and guest artists, art exhibitions, fieldtrips, audiovisual shows, and collaborative projects offer students extended learning experiences.

With so many different kinds and levels of classes offered, the Art Department invites all students to take at least one course and try their hand at a creative experience!

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Studio Arts	Art 1 – Foundation of Art Visual Arts Design 1	Art 1,2 – Exploration of Art Visual Arts Design 1,2 Ceramics 1	Art 1,2, 3 Visual Arts Design 1,2 Ceramics 1,2, 3	Art 1,2, 3, 4 Visual Arts Design 1,2 Ceramics 1,2,3
Photography		Photography 1,2,3	Photography 1,2,3	Photography 1,2,3
Band	Beginning Band Jazz Band Percussion Ensemble	Beginning Band Concert Band Jazz Band Percussion Ensemble Symphonic Band	Beginning Band Concert Band Jazz Band Percussion Ensemble Symphonic Band	Beginning Band Concert Band Jazz Band Percussion Ensemble Symphonic Band
Orchestra	Concert Orchestra	Concert Orchestra Orchestra Philharmonia	Concert Orchestra Orchestra Philharmonia Orchestra Symphonia	Concert Orchestra Orchestra Philharmonia Orchestra Symphonia
Choir	Philharmonic	Philharmonic Ambiance Starlighters	Philharmonic Ambiance Starlighters	Philharmonic Ambiance Starlighters
Other Music	Piano Class	Piano Class	Piano Class	Piano Class
Drama	Theater 1 Technical Theater	Theater 1,2 Technical Theater Technical Teacher- Production	Theater 1,2,3 Technical Theater Technical Teacher - Production	Theater 1,2,3 Technical Theater Technical Teacher - Production

ART OPTIONS

6110 Art 1 – Foundation of Art

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to increase their skills in both the understanding and creating of art. Emphasis is placed on individual imagination, development of artistic skills, production of artistic works, and the ability to make and justify judgments about the aesthetic merit and quality of art. Students will be introduced to such art areas as drawing, color, design, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students will be evaluated on their ability to generate, develop, present and critique ideas through work produced in and out of class.

6120 Art 2 – Explorations in Art

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This course is an in-depth continuation of the basic art course with a wider choice of subject matter in the areas of drawing, design, painting, sculpture, and printmaking. Through demonstrations, lectures, and examples, students expand their abilities and understanding of art. Evaluations are based upon the artwork produced, maintenance of a sketchbook, and occasional tests on artists and styles of art.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Art 1 or instructor approval.

6130 Art 3 – Studio in Context

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Projects created in Art 3 encourage students' individuality and inventiveness as they utilize media, styles and content from an array of periods and culture throughout time in their own work. Emphasis is placed on creativity, skill development, exploration of media and techniques, expression and professional presentation. Evaluations will be based on participation, explorations, studio skill, creativity and engagement in art making mediums.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of two art courses and instructor approval.

6140 Art 4 – Independent Studio

Elective Grade: 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This advanced course is designed for students who have an extensive art background. The focus of the class is college preparatory with special emphasis on portfolio development, career exploration and art production in a studio atmosphere. Students have an AP option within the class. Evaluations are based on individual creativity, skill demonstration, critique participation and professional presentation.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of three (3) art courses and instructor approval.

6150 Visual Arts Design 1

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Elements and principles of visual design are applied to 2 and 3-dimensional media such as paper, fiber arts, stained glass, glass fusing, copper jewelry/enameling, and batik. Evaluations will be based on participation, exploration, studio skill, creativity and engagement in art making mediums. Students are required to purchase some materials.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 1 and instructor approval

6160 Visual Arts Design 2

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This design course is an in-depth continuation of Visual Design Studio 1. Students are required to complete extensive and elaborate designs and gain a deeper knowledge of skills, media and techniques. Students work in a studio atmosphere with individual instruction. Evaluations will be based on participation, exploration, studio skill, creativity and engagement in art making mediums. Students are required to purchase some materials.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art I, Visual Design Studio 1 and instructor approval.

6210 Ceramics 1

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Students develop basic skills on the potter's wheel and learn hand-building techniques. Making clay, clay construction, decorating, making glaze, kiln stacking, and firing are class learning experiences. Design and originality are emphasized. Lectures and demonstrations are provided with time for individual work and instructor assistance. Students are evaluated on individual projects and skills. Design, craftsmanship, and knowledge of the craft are emphasized. Art 1 is helpful, but not required.

6220 Ceramics 2

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Ceramics 2 allows students to continue to explore both intermediate wheel throwing and hand building. Projects are larger and more difficult than entry level ceramics but allow for more freedom of choice. Ceramics 2 also provides authentic education in the logistics of maintaining a functioning ceramics studio such as glaze production and kiln loading. Evaluation is based on engagement in the ceramic media, creativity, studio skills and participation.

Prerequisite: Ceramics 1 and instructor approval.

6230 Ceramics 3

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This advanced ceramics class provides an opportunity for upper-level students to fully explore the ceramic medium with the goal of developing a personal style. Students have full freedom to choose their area of emphasis, **either functional** thrown pottery or sculptural hand building. Ceramics 3 students are expected to be highly self-motivated, driven, and

fully engaged in the creation of ceramic art as well as assisting in the day-to-day logistics of running a ceramic studio. Evaluation is based on engagement in the ceramic media, creativity, studio skills and participation.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ceramics 2 and instructor approval.

PHOTOGRAPHY OPTIONS

6250 Photography 1

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

In this introductory photography course, students learn the fundamentals of digital camera technique, lighting, color, and composition. Students will use software such as Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom as a tool for photographic improvement as well as personal expression. Students explore a variety of subjects to develop expressive content and learn to communicate more eloquently through visual language. Evaluations are based on class participation, projects, critiques, written work and tests. A digital camera, and successful completion of Art 1 or instructor approval are needed for enrollment in this class.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art I is needed for enrollment in this class.

6260 Photography 2

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

This class is an exploration of intermediate photography using both digital and film cameras. Students work with film and light-sensitive materials and learn to print in the darkroom. Students develop greater skills using digital development techniques as well as learning to make refined prints in the darkroom. Students continue to practice design principles and visual communication while considering photographic history, including a variety of photographic styles. Evaluations are based on class participation, projects, critiques, written work and tests. Instructor approval, a digital camera, and successful completion of both Photo 1 and Art 1 are needed for enrollment in this class.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of both Art 1 and Photography 1, a digital camera, and permission of instructor.

6270 Photography 3

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Photography 3 introduces students to digital art media and the creative and conceptual foundations of still photography and moving images. Students develop skills for creating composite photographs, motion graphics, stop motion, sound design, and video production using Lightroom, Photoshop, iMovie, and other programs. Students build digital portfolios and design their own web sites, while learning about careers in media arts.

Evaluations are based on class participation, projects, critiques, and written work. Instructor approval, a digital camera, and successful completion of both Photo 1 and 2 and Art 1 are needed for enrollment in this class.

Prerequisite: Photo 1 and Photo 2 and instructor approval.

MUSIC AND THEATER OPTIONS

If singing, acting, or playing an instrument is your thing, the music and theater program is for you! A variety of programs are offered in all three areas: singing, acting, and playing. Performances both in and outside the school are the focus of all choirs. For those who enjoy acting, several levels of theater classes are offered from beginning to advanced.

For the instrumentalist, there are also a number of exciting, varied opportunities at Helena High. Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, along with Orchestras Harmonia, Philharmonia, and Sinfonia offer a broad range of musical choices, experiences, and performing styles. Auditions are required for most performance groups. Music and theater classes are all electives, but students are encouraged to get involved in some aspect of the arts by taking some course in the program, which prides itself on building confidence and performance skills and success.

6300 Freshman Band

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

This course is a training program for Concert Band. Students participate in several concerts and perform in solo and ensemble presentations at the District Music Festival. Musical skills are developed including scales, intonation, and

technique. A playing knowledge of all types of music is emphasized in group, ensemble, and solo rehearsals. Students are evaluated on playing ability, performance in group rehearsals, and required performances.

Prerequisite: 8th grade band

6320 Concert Band

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

The course is more advanced than Freshman Band and is considered a training course for Wind Symphony. Students participate in several concerts and perform in solo and ensemble presentations at the District Music Festival. More advanced musical skills are developed including scales, intonation, and technique. Standard and contemporary band literature is emphasized. Students are evaluated on playing ability, performance in group rehearsals, and required performances. Freshmen are not eligible for this class unless they have written approval from the Helena High School band instructor.

6360 Symphonic Band

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

The course includes participation in Marching Band first quarter with concert literature the rest of the year. Students refine their musical skills, such as scales, intonation, technique, and interpretation and participate in several concerts and at District and State Music Festivals. Standard and contemporary band literature is emphasized. Students are evaluated on playing ability, performance in group rehearsals, and required performances. Instrumentation will be limited to the following: 8-flute/piccolo, 2-oboes, 2-bassoons, 12-clarinets, 4-bass clarinets, 4-alto sax, 2-tenor sax, 1-bari sax, 9-trumpets, 6-F horns, 9-trombones, 2-euphonium/baritone, 6-tuba, 6-percussion. Students can become members of this band ONLY by audition or invitation of the director.

Prerequisite: Freshman Band and instructor approval

6370 Jazz Band

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

The course focuses on the study of standard and contemporary jazz techniques and improvisation. In group rehearsals, students refine their musical skills such as intonation, jazz scales, and jazz interpretation. Jazz Band performs in several jazz and music festivals throughout the year. Evaluations are made of playing ability and attendance at rehearsals and at performances.

Prerequisite: Must be in Freshmen Band, Concert Band or Wind Symphony and audition (no exceptions); instructor approval.

6392 Percussion Ensemble

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Percussion Ensemble is a class designed to develop musical performance and technique on various percussion instruments, including but not limited to snare drum, drum set, timpani, marimba and other mallet instruments, drumline, and percussion instruments from other cultures. The students will study and apply percussion performance concepts to several different styles of music, from classical to marching to music of native origin. The class is open for beginning and advanced students. All 9-12 band percussionists are required to take Percussion Ensemble as their primary band ensemble. Non-percussionists interested in learning a secondary instrument may take this class in addition to their traditional band class. Students will perform as part of the Percussion Ensemble and Drum Line as well as section percussionists in Freshman Band, Concert Band, and/or Symphonic Band, depending on age and ability.

6411 Orchestra Harmonia

Elective: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Orchestra Harmonia is open to all Freshman through Seniors with at least one year of previous orchestral experience; this class is geared toward Freshman. Orchestra Harmonia is a class where orchestral skills (including technique, posture, leadership, theory, and history) will be emphasized. Students are expected to practice regularly and to come to class prepared to play every day. Other opportunities for students to further their knowledge and basic skills will be achieved through regular concerts and a performance at District Music Festival. It is recommended that students have their own instrument for this class, but rental options are available through the school district. Selection of school instruments is limited and will be based on need. Cello and Bass players will be provided an instrument and bow to use during school rehearsals.

Prerequisite: At least one year of previous orchestral experience (middle school recommended)

6410 Orchestra Philharmonia

Elective: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Orchestra Philharmonia is open to all Sophomores through Seniors with at least two years of previous orchestral experience, one of those at the high school level; this class is geared toward Sophomores. Orchestra Philharmonia is a class where orchestral skills (including technique, posture, leadership, theory, and history) will be emphasized. Students are expected to practice regularly and to come to class prepared to play every day. Other opportunities for students to further their knowledge and basic skills will be achieved through regular concerts, a performance at District Music Festival, and participation in AA Music Festival. It is recommended that students have their own instrument for this class, but rental options are available through the school district. Selection of school instruments is limited and will be based on need. Cello and Bass players will be provided an instrument and bow to use during school rehearsals.

Prerequisite: Orchestra Harmonia or Instructor approval

6420 Orchestra Sinfonia

Elective: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Orchestra Sinfonia is open to Juniors and Seniors with at least one year of previous high school orchestra experience. Orchestra Sinfonia will perform at least four concerts, District Music Festival, and AA Festival. Orchestra Sinfonia will be playing very high levels of music; therefore, members will be expected to practice daily. It is recommended that students have their own instrument for this class, but rental options are available through the school district. Selection of school instruments is limited and will be based on need. Cello and Bass players will be provided an instrument and bow to use during school rehearsals.

Prerequisite: At least one year of previous high school orchestra (Orchestras Harmonia or Philharmonia) or instructor approval.

6391 Piano Class

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Semester – .5 Credit

Class Piano is designed for students with little to no piano experience who have a desire to develop basic piano playing skills. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards and will consist of training in basic music theory and piano skills. Students will be working individually and as a class to master the techniques of playing and to explore a variety of literature. Class piano provides a flexible learning environment which allows students to be self-paced in their practice and performance skills in order to meet course objectives.

6540 Philharmonic Choir

Elective Grades: 9 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Philharmonic Choir is available to students of all grade levels and requires an audition in order to be accepted and enrolled in the class. This class focuses on vocal production/technique, music literacy, and performance. Students will study and perform music from a variety of genres, styles, and languages. Philharmonic performs four concerts a year. In addition, this choir participates in the District Music Festival.

6550 Starlighters

Elective Grades: 11 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Starlighters is a mixed choir for students in grades 10-12 and requires an audition in order to be accepted and enrolled in this class. This class focuses on advanced vocal production/technique, music literacy, and performance. Students must have strong sight-singing skills, advanced vocal technique, and a positive attitude. Students will study and perform music from a variety of genres, styles, and languages. Starlighters performs six concerts a year and participates in several community, regional, and national events when the opportunity arises. In addition, this choir participates in the District Music Festival. An audition is required for all students who wish to enroll in Starlighters.

6580 Ambiance

Elective Grades: 10 – 12
Full Year – 1 Credit

Ambiance is a treble choir for students of all grade levels and requires an audition in order to be accepted and enrolled in this class. This class focuses on advanced vocal production/technique, music literacy, and performance. Students must have strong sight-singing skills, advanced vocal technique, and a positive attitude. Students will study and perform music from a variety of genres, styles, and languages. Ambiance performs six concerts a year and participates in several community, regional, and national events when the opportunity arises. In addition, this choir participates in the District Music Festival. An audition is required for all students who wish to enroll in Ambiance.

6700 Theater 1

Elective Grades: 9 – 12

Full Year – 1 Credit

Beginning Theater course offers a student an introduction to all areas found in the legitimate theater. Students will study theatrical basics, mime, acting, make-up, theater history, and technical theater. The emphasis is on hands-on learning, with an emphasis on performance and real-world theater production. Theater 1 students will be required to see Helena High Theater Productions throughout the year. The class has no prerequisite. Students are evaluated on class work, tests, scene work, and participation.

Theater 1 can be taken as a dual credit course for those students who are at least 16 years old. Students are responsible for enrollment paperwork, tuition and fees. Helena College THTR 101.

6710 Theater 2

Elective Grades: 10 – 12

Full Year – 1 Credit

Theater 2 expands on performing skills that were introduced in Theater 1. Students will work with acting technique, beginning directing technique, and if time permits, some script writing. In this class students will develop and maintain a resume, and a current repertoire of audition scenes. The emphasis of the class is on further developing self-awareness and projecting a character in all of the dimensions available to an actress/actor started in Theater 1. Students will be required to see all Helena High School theater performances. Students will inventory skills and work on basics of script writing and directing, laying a foundation for Theater 3 projects. The Theater 2 class will work with Theater 3 and 4 classes to produce showcase productions and plays outside of the class assigned by the instructor, dates will be set at the beginning of the school year. Students are graded on written work, scene work production, and participation.

Theater 2 can be taken as dual credit for those students who are at least 16 years old. Students are responsible for the enrollment paperwork, tuition and fees. Helena College THTR 120.

Prerequisite: Theater 2, signature of instructor. Students must purchase their own makeup kit for use in Theater 2.

6720 Theater 3

Elective Grades: 11 – 12

Full Year – 1 Credit

Theater 3 is geared to students who show a high interest in the performing side of theater. Students in Theater 3 are those who have successfully completed Theater 2. Many of the Theater 3 students are contemplating theater as a possible career, or path of study at the University level. Class work includes scene work, improvisation, refining performing skills, advanced script writing, academic and practical study of theatrical genres and styles. Students will exit the class with two contrasting audition scenes, and a resume for college level auditions. Students will be helping to produce workshops and productions outside of class. Students are graded on written projects, scene work, directing work, and participation in class. Prerequisite: Theater 2 and instructor signature. Students must purchase their own makeup kit for use in Theater 3.

6730 Technical Theater- Stagecraft

Elective Grades: 9 – 12

Full Year – 1 Credit

Technical theater offers students interested in the “Back stage men and women in Black” area of theater production. Students will learn production techniques common to stage, film, television and related performance areas. The class offers instruction in the fundamentals of stage carpentry, production, lighting, sound and sets. The technical theater class constructs, lights and produces all aspects of Helen High productions, and offers technical support to theatrical events in other schools and the community. Students will be required to have hearing protection, a nail apron and vision protection. Students will be graded on projects, class participation and tests and quizzes over area content. This class can be offered for Vo Ed Credit.

6731 Technical Theater- Production

Elective Grades: 10 – 12

Full Year – 1 Credit

Technical Theater – Technical Production is the advanced technical theater course and meets at this time in *conjunction with Technical theater - stagecraft*. It requires the successful completion of *Technical Theater – Stagecraft*, and the signature of the instructor. All students in Technical Production will be assigned technical duties for productions at Helena high and will be required to work hours outside of the normal class time applying and expanding knowledge from stagecraft. Portfolio, resume, and job completion are required for the student to get a grade in the class. Each assignment per semester can and most likely will change and will require the student to act as a member of the production team as assigned. Students will be required to be at performances and rehearsals out of class time and during weekends near the production. The course can be repeated for credit and will require the student to expand their knowledge in the areas chosen or assigned.

Prerequisite: Technical Theater 6730 and instructor signature.