

EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fine and Performing Arts Program, K-12

An essential part of the fabric of our school community and a source of pride in the community-at-large.



Academic Guide for Families 2023-2024

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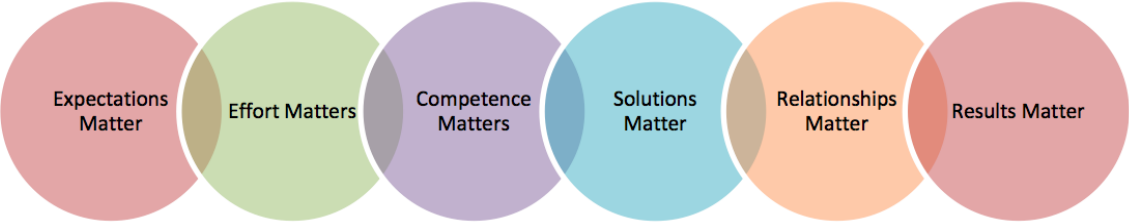
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East Hartford Public Schools
Schools that are the Pride of our Community



PREFACE and OVERVIEW

The Arts are an integral part of every child's education. The major goal of the K-12 Fine and Performing Arts Department is to provide all students with a wide-range of opportunities to create, perform and respond that empower them to carry out independent processes authentic to each discipline. The Fine & Performing Arts department supports district and school literacy initiatives through digital storytelling, reflective summaries of student projects, and curriculum-based assessments. You may visit our district [Fine and Performing Arts webpage](#) for additional information.

Visual art students create works using a variety of media. They also learn to develop an appreciation for art through the study of various art forms and artwork from different cultures. At the elementary level, children are provided interdisciplinary projects that give them an opportunity to connect to other areas of learning. Students create and solve problems; they also learn how to develop ideas, collaborate, reflect on their work and critique the work of others.

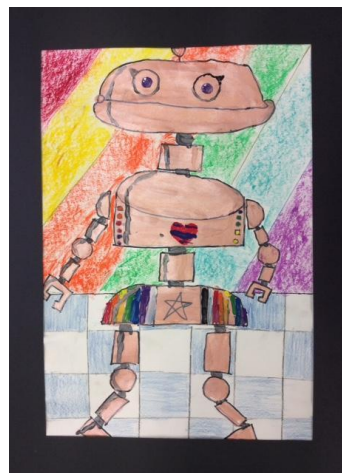
In music, students develop musical skills and knowledge through a variety of activities that engage them in creating music, moving to music, responding to music and performing music. In addition to the general music program, the instrumental program provides students the opportunity to begin instruction on a string instrument in grade three and on a band instrument in grade four.

The music and art curricula are based on the Connecticut Arts Standards. Concerts and exhibitions provide authentic opportunities for students to showcase their work and for teachers, parents and guardians and the community-at-large.

VISUAL ARTS

Scope of Services

Elementary School: Students in kindergarten through grade five receive art instruction once every three days for forty-five minutes. Students at O'Connell Elementary School receive art instruction once every five days. For all schools, student achievement is recognized at the annual town-wide art shows.

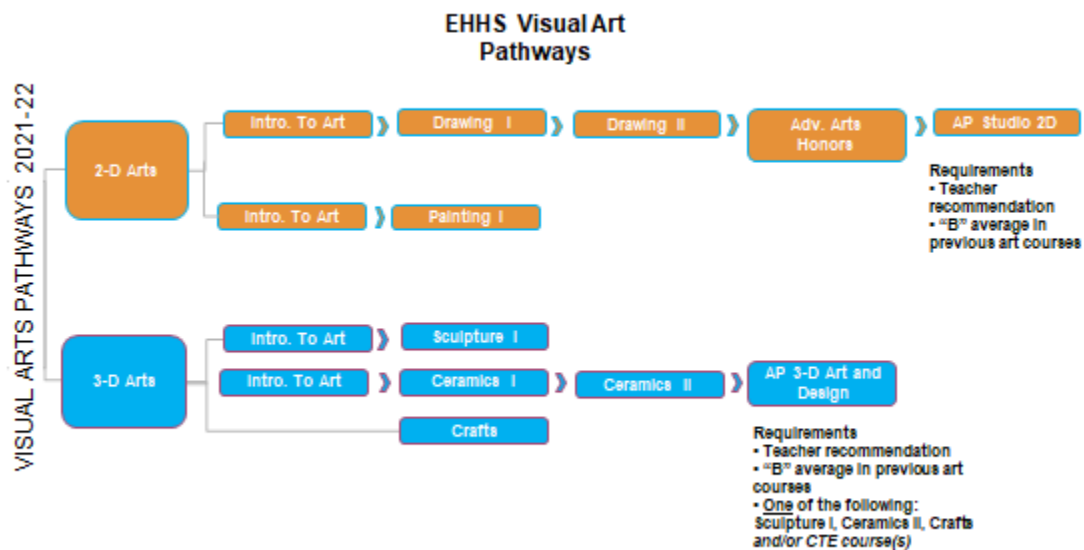


Middle School: Sixth and seventh graders receive fine art instruction for one semester. Students use their knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design to create various art projects using a variety of media including still life, self-portrait, printmaking, drawing and sculpture. Eighth graders receive a semester of instruction in graphic arts.

The art curriculum encompasses several art historical units in which students have the opportunity to learn and explore a variety of cultures (African, Hispanic, Asian, and European) and historical art periods.

East Hartford High School: Students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to take a variety of electives. All classes are designed to develop artistic judgment, individual skills and techniques and to provide background material that might be the basis for future career choices. Classes meet daily on a semester basis. AP courses meet daily for the full year.

The art curriculum exposes students to a variety of media to help them acquire a better understanding of art and to give them a chance to develop techniques according to individual interest. Two pathways, 2-D and 3-D, have been created which allow students the opportunity to pursue the highest levels of artistic development.



Connecticut IB Academy (CIBA): At CIBA, art students have opportunities to function as artists and as learners of the arts. Students create, perform and present art in ways that engage and convey feelings, experiences and ideas. For more information about the arts curriculum, see the CIBA Program of Studies.

Synergy Alternative High School: Students at Synergy typically have art as part of their program of studies. Small classes and core lessons in portraiture and drawing techniques provide opportunities for self-expression and individualized instruction.

Woodland: Students who attend Woodland take art classes as part of their program of studies.



MUSIC EDUCATION



The Music Program is sequentially developed to incorporate the artistic processes of creating, performing, and responding. Students are provided the opportunity to develop musical skills and knowledge through a variety of experiences and activities. Through music, they learn the richness of their cultural heritage as well as the diverse society in which they live.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Elementary School: Students in kindergarten through grade five meet once every three days for forty-five minutes. Students at O’Connell School receive general music instruction once every five days to align with their five-day rotation schedule. Listening, singing, rhythmic development, creativity, and performance are major components of the program. Grade three students begin instruction on recorders, and may request instruction on a string instrument. Grade 4 - 5 students may elect instruction on a band instrument. Additional performance opportunities may be provided through collaborations with various community groups.

Middle School: Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students receive general music instruction along with art and technology during the year. Through an emphasis on the study of global music, the standards-based curriculum is afforded to all middle school students who are not enrolled in an ensemble. All grades focus on music literacy, and students in each grade have the opportunity to explore an instrument: grade six – ukulele, grade seven – piano, and grade eight – guitar. **Instrumental students** can continue participating in either the band or orchestra which meet on a daily basis. Students are also able to participate in the Jazz/World Music Ensemble after school. **Vocal students** may elect chorus and audition for the special chorus ensemble.

High School: Music courses at East Hartford High School are designed to foster students’ ability to perform music and to enhance their understanding and appreciation of music. Music courses and performance experiences provide a background for further opportunities in the music profession and as a lifelong participant and/or a listener. In addition, the study of music enhances higher-order thinking skills that often contribute to success in a variety of professional endeavors.

East Hartford High School:

For complete descriptions of music courses and prerequisites, see the EHHS Program of Studies.

Open Enrollment Courses

Piano 1 Guitar 1 Music Production Video Production DJ and Live Sound

Courses requiring instructor approval

Band Orchestra Concert Choir
Piano 2 (requires a grade of C or higher in Piano 1)
Guitar 2 (requires a grade of C or higher in Guitar 1)

CIBA: Students who attend CIBA are able to participate in band or orchestra at EHHS.

CAREERS IN MUSIC

Students considering a career in music should:

- Achieve a level of proficiency in their primary instrument (wind, string, percussion or voice).
- Perform on their primary instrument in band, orchestra, or a vocal ensemble for all four years.

Students are encouraged to take a class outside of their primary instrument (such as Concert Choir, Guitar, and Piano). Instrumentalists are especially encouraged to participate in a vocal ensemble.

Careers in Music include: performer, producer, recorder, acoustical engineer, church director or musician, composer/arranger, musical theater performer, music technician, musicologist and musical therapist.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Students in East Hartford Public Schools have the opportunity to begin instrument instruction in Grade 3. Third grade students can opt to play a string instrument: violin, viola, or cello. Students are exposed to these instruments continuously in their general music classes and in a presentation provided by the building's string instructor. Please contact your school's instrumental string teacher for information about how to sign up for lessons. The district will provide each student an instrument for a nominal maintenance fee.

In Grade 4, students have the choice to play either a string instrument or instruments found in a band. Primary band instruments include the flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, trombone and percussion. Students are exposed to these instruments continuously in their general music classes and in a presentation provided by the building's string instructor. Please contact your school's instrumental band teacher for information about how to sign up for lessons. The district will provide each student an instrument for a nominal maintenance fee.

Students in the elementary buildings and East Hartford Middle School participate in 30-minute small group instruction each week during which they have the ability to receive instruction focused on the specific skills of their selected instrument. In addition to the small group instruction, returning players meet and play in an ensemble appropriate to their instrument; band or orchestra. Winter and Spring concerts provide a forum to showcase the learning and skills that have been developed throughout the year.

At East Hartford High School, students who play an instrument are automatically enrolled in an instrumental ensemble. In the band, students are combined to make one ensemble from August to November, the East Hartford High School Hornet Marching Band. Students practice for one week prior to the start of school to participate in team-building activities and learn the football half-time show.

Materials are distributed prior to summer vacation at East Hartford Middle School to inform students and families of the events that will take place as their child transitions to the high school music program. Students in the orchestra and band meet every day for 45 minutes of instruction in a large performing ensemble. In addition to the regularly scheduled concerts, students in the instrumental program have

the opportunity to participate in community service such as caroling during the holiday season and performing at local meetings and events.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

1. Help your child select a private “practice corner” at home, away from distractions. Consider purchasing a **folding music stand**. It will help to arrange music at eye level and promote correct playing position/posture.
2. Ask your child's to perform their assigned music pieces. Give positive feedback such as: “You played that song very well,” “Excellent position,” “You played without stopping,” “You had good concentration,” “Keep on trying,” etc.
3. Lend guidance to the length of your child's practice time.
Beginners: 15 minutes per day.
Second, third- and fourth-year players: 20 to 30 minutes **five** days a week.
4. Attend all school concerts and support your child’s music making.
5. Take pride and satisfaction in watching your child reap the benefits of lifelong skills through music education.

TIPS TO HELP GUIDE YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

1. **DO** share your child's enjoyment in both practice and in performances. React positively and with enthusiasm!
2. **DO** provide an environment of good quality listening experiences: both recorded and live performances. The public libraries have a collection of recordings. The Hartford Symphony, the New Haven Symphony, Connecticut Youth Symphony (Univ. of Hartford), the Capitol Winds Concert Band (Univ. of Hartford), the UConn Bands, the U.S. Coast Guard Bands and many other groups perform regularly. Share these activities as a family.
3. **DO** help your child plan a regular, uninterrupted practice schedule. Remember, it is always the **quality** of time spent, more than the amount of time. Try to practice at least FIVE days a week.
4. **DO** take time to attend school concerts in their entirety. Your child needs and appreciates your support.
5. **DO** encourage your child to play for family and friends.