



March 2022

Dear Prospective UHS Student,

On behalf of the Arts Department, welcome to UHS, where the arts are an integral part of the student experience.

UHS's arts program is a vibrant and essential part of our school's community. The skills of creativity, imagination, collaboration, and critical thinking are relevant not only to the world of the arts, but also to other disciplines like science and literature as well as our 21st century world.

As a sophomore you will take *Civilization and the Arts: A Transcultural History of the West and the World*. This is a full year interdisciplinary course that examines the relationship between art, music, and history and is an important part of our shared goal as a department to help students not only develop their artistic skills, but also their understanding of the arts.

While attending UHS, you will be expected to take two semesters of performing and/or studio arts classes. You may choose to immerse yourself in the world of photography, play an instrument that inspires you, learn how to use cutting-edge electronic music software, create your own masterpiece, write and direct a short play, or design and build a stage set that would rival those seen in our local professional theaters!

Each of our disciplines offers an entry-level course, as well as upper division courses that allow students to explore a particular art form in greater depth. This means that you can follow your journey into the arts well after you have completed your two required semesters. As a matter of fact, over 80% of our student body does just that! By mastering the fundamental skills of the discipline, they mature into more confident and creative actors, visual artists, singers, theatre designers, songwriters and musicians. It is also common for students to pursue more than one arts discipline.

Our arts faculty is passionate about and professionally engaged with their respective disciplines. We can be found in the concert halls, galleries, theaters, and jazz venues throughout the Bay Area. We do what we teach and with two major theater productions, a student-driven drama series, six art openings, and four concerts each year, the arts are always present in our school culture.

If you'd like to attend one of our art openings, theater productions or concerts, please check the calendar of arts events on our website. This is a great way to see first-hand the depth of our programs and a fantastic opportunity to meet and speak with our arts faculty. If you are unable to make one of our events and/or if you have further questions about our arts program, you can always feel free to contact me.

Warmest regards,

James K. Faerron
Arts Department Chair and Instructor of Technical Theater
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Arts Department Values Statements

- We value **creativity** and **imagination** as skills relevant to all UHS curricula and our 21st century world. We strive for students to become innovators who seek solutions from multiple approaches. We believe that purposeful risk-taking cultivates independent and critical thinking pertinent to all fields.
- We value the **process** of creating. We teach students to build resiliency while they are developing their skills in our classes. When challenged by setbacks and ambiguities, we encourage students to learn to trust themselves, and to persevere.
- We value teaching the arts as a **language**. We empower students to use the arts as a lens to analyze, decode, interpret, and communicate with the world around them.
- We value a **collaborative** experience in our classrooms. Our arts spaces are supportive environments where students work together, respect multiple perspectives, and incorporate the critique process into their practice.
- We value connecting the physical and intellectual aspects of creating. Hands-on engagement with the discipline enhances cognitive development. By mastering and manipulating the foundational and technical elements of a discipline, students are better able to conceptually engage with the art form.
- We value inspiring **passion** for the discipline by exposing our students to the professional world of the arts. We work with specialists in the classrooms and take field trips to arts organizations, festivals, and events. We model passion for the arts through our own ongoing participation in our respective professional fields.