

Performing and Visual Arts

The visual and performing arts are a valued part of the SDJA curriculum. Courses of study include visual art, ceramics, drama, instrumental music, and choir *minyán*. We believe that the practice of making art engages the imagination, promotes innovation and builds self-confidence. Our experienced teachers, who are also musicians and artists, strive to cultivate and encourage students to openly explore and grow through the arts. All courses promote the development of artistic skill and creative expression. In addition to classroom practice and learning, students participate in performances, exhibitions, and field trips.

Middle School

Art

Art is a projects-based class that provides a context for exploration and skill development in a variety of artistic media. Ceramics, painting, and drawing are all components of the class. The elements and principles of design are discussed, applied, and analyzed throughout the course. New projects will be presented.

Digital Photography

In Digital Photography students are taught the terminologies and techniques of photography as well as the use of Photoshop in image correction, enhancement and artistic expression. We will touch on various types of photography (portraiture, still life, etc.), as well as basic lighting techniques, and photography styles. Through this course students will gain an understanding of the basics of digital photography, critiquing and maybe even how to look at the world differently.

Drama

This course offers beginners a sampling of drama, from the importance of gesture and body movement through pantomime, to infusing voice and emotion on stage to create mood and character in a scripted scene. Emphasis will be placed on confidence building throughout the course as students will be expected to participate on-stage on a daily basis. Students will participate in regular doses of improvisation to hone acting skills and will perform small pieces -- lip sync, poems, character sketches, short monologues and group scenes--whereby they will learn how to interpret scripts and create cohesive scenes with others. The class will culminate in a medley of scenes performed by students.

Music

This active and engaging course is designed for students who play, or would like to learn to play, the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, bass, guitar, or drums. More experienced instrumental students who would like to mentor and lead groups within this class are also encouraged to enroll. Areas of focus will include the learning of standard musical notation related to the repertoire, participation in historical/cultural lessons related to music, and group

performance skills. Students taking this class are expected to have a regular practice routine and participate in an end of year concert. The school has a limited number of instruments for students to use, however, students are encouraged to rent or supply their own instruments.

Upper School

High School Music

This course is designed to be a continuation for students who have previously taken Middle School Band or Intermediate Music. It is also for students with some experience on any instrument who would like to learn group skills and develop their ability on the instrument. Students will read music notation relevant to the applied literature, listen to/analyze/describe music, learn the historical and cultural attributes of music relevant to the course, and critically examine selections of music from various genres. Students taking this class are expected to supply their own instrument (with some exceptions), have a regular practice routine, and participate in at least 2 public concerts.

Rock Band

This exciting course will give students the opportunity to play in a rock band situation with their peers while developing musical skills on their main instrument. Students do not have to know how to read music but they must have moderate experience playing guitar, drums, bass, vocals, or keyboard. During this year-long course students will study rock and roll music from the 1950's through the present and will have the opportunity to perform at concerts and school sports events. Students will learn to play together as a class but will also be divided into smaller "bands" according to their experience level.

Advanced Music

Advanced music is a one- to three-year performing ensemble for serious instrumental music students with at least 3 years of experience playing an instrument and reading music. Students improve their ensemble skills on a wind instrument, guitar, bass, stringed, or percussion instrument through the study of musical literature and performance in at least two public concerts. Small group ensembles formed from the larger group perform regularly at local community events. Students must be prepared to participate in regular performances. Students also read music notation relevant to the applied literature, listen to/analyze/describe music, learn the historical and cultural attributes of music relevant to the course, and critically examine selections of music from jazz, blues, classical, and folk styles. Students taking this class are expected to supply their own instrument, have a regular practice routine, and participate in regular performances throughout the year.

Visual Art (HS)

This course serves as a foundation art class. All of the lessons and projects expose students to basic art literacy and skills' development. We work on projects that use the creative process, a step-by-step method, to solve problems creatively and efficiently. We develop the ability to

focus on smaller elements in order to draw and sculpt what we see. We learn art history to think about what others have done so we can discover ways to improve what we create. We learn to critique and think about what we've done so we can learn from our successes and failures. We draw with pencils, markers, and pastels. We use color as a form of communication, to show emotion, to show dimension, to compare and contrast. We sculpt with wire, clay, and other media.

AP Studio Art

This course helps expand on a solid foundation of arts creation. Students will experiment with techniques, theories, and concepts; develop an understanding of art made by others and self; solve problems independently and collaboratively; and use a process that supports a sustained investigation of all three aspects of portfolio development – quality, concentration, and breadth – as outlined in the AP Studio Art Course materials.