

# **High School Fine Arts Course Descriptions 2025-26**

## **Introduction:**

These courses represent the totality of Fine Arts offerings at the Einstein School. Their inclusion does not mean they are offered every year; many are based on student interest and/or minimum enrollment in the class. Contact us if you have a question regarding the availability of particular classes.

### **Art I**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this fundamental course, students explore elements and principles underlying the artwork they create. Students will learn artistic terminology as they proceed through the course. Artists from different movements are discussed and students will attempt their techniques. Student work will reflect what they have learned. Additional fees apply per semester.

### **Art History**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Art I*

Art History students learn about ancient and modern civilizations and formal, artistic principles. Students hone their critical eye and learn how to appreciate elements like originality, self-expression, imagination, and style.

### **Art Portfolio**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Art I or Studio Art*

This course is designed to prepare the student for college-level art classes. Students will develop portfolios tailored to the university of their choice. This course will set students on the path for a job in a creative field and they will be challenged on many levels. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Multi-Media Design**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This is a beginner-level course that explores the basic usage and concepts of digital media design. This exploratory course allows students to make art with media they already enjoy using.

**Studio Art**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Art I*

Studio Art is designed for upperclassman who seek an aggressive program for skill development. This course is designed for students who plan to pursue work in a creative field. This is a class for students who truly love art and seek new tools to add to their own skill sets. Students will be challenged in their creative thinking skills. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Piano I**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

Students will be introduced to basic piano techniques and sheet music. Study of rhythm, notes and rests, time signatures, damper pedal, proper hand positions, and more will be included in course instruction. Practical work at the keyboard will include lessons, performance, and exercise components. A theory textbook is required, and written theory work will be emphasized. Auditions are not required for admission into the course, but they may be used to identify beginner, intermediate, or potential advancement to Piano II. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Piano II**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Audition*

This audition-based course is designed for pianists who have completed Piano I or who have several years of experience. In this course, students learn to master advanced techniques such as scales, arpeggios, chords, inversions, and finger independence. Students will also play complex and expressive pieces from different genres and styles such as classical, jazz, blues, pop, and rock. Students will learn to improvise and compose their own music using various methods and tools. They will also develop their musical ear and sight-reading skills and learn to perform confidently and professionally in front of an audience. Additional fees apply per semester.

**String Chamber Music**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Audition*

This course is designed for advanced string instrumentalists (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) and explores a diverse range of music designed for small ensembles. Through studying and performing relevant works, participants become acquainted with the genre. The rehearsal schedule is intended to provide adequate preparation for meaningful and valuable performances. Depending on suitability and assignment, students may also assume leadership roles. This class helps students prepare for orchestra auditions, contests, and recitals. Each student must provide the instrument of their choice. Auditions will take place early in the course. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Beginner Violin/Viola**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the violin and viola, emphasizing a thorough understanding of their fundamental aspects from both performance and pedagogical perspectives. Students develop essential performance skills, hone their musical ear, and explore their creativity.

Each student must bring the instrument of their choice (violin or viola). No auditions are required for this class. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Beginner Cello**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the cello, emphasizing a thorough understanding of its fundamental aspects from both performance and pedagogical perspectives. Students develop essential performance skills, hone their musical ear, and explore their creativity.

Required material: Essential Elements for Strings Book 1 by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, and Pamela Tellejohn Hayes.

Each student must bring their own cello. No auditions are required for this class. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Advanced Cello**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Audition*

The primary goal of this class is for cellists to develop skills and advanced techniques in a positive and active learning atmosphere. Each student will read literature assigned by the teacher after student-level evaluations, including etudes, methods, and appropriate repertoire (sonatas/concertos). The teacher will provide copies of material to be used in this class.

Each student must bring their instrument. Auditions will take place early in the course. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Music Theory**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this course, students learn to understand the various elements of music. By the end of the course, students will be able to recognize all the aspects of the musical score when reading or composing music.

**Instrumental Music – Guitars**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to accommodate guitar students of varying skill levels. Students will learn how to play the guitar and read guitar tablature, chord diagrams, and chord charts. They will also learn guitar maintenance, composition, and performance techniques, including the foundational skills necessary to participate in a rock band. Auditions are not required for admission into the course, but they may be used to identify beginner, intermediate, or advanced students. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Instrumental Music – Drums**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to accommodate drum kit students of varying skill levels. Students will learn the basics of playing a drum kit, including proper playing techniques, rudiments, grooves, and drumbeats. They will also learn drum kit maintenance, composition, and performance techniques, including the fundamentals of being a drummer in a rock band. Auditions are not required for admission into the course, but they may be used to identify beginner, intermediate, or advanced students. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Instrumental Music – Rock Band**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Audition*

Students will hone their skills with guitar, drums, keyboard, and vocals through group rehearsals and performances. Students will be given opportunities to perform in-school and off-campus. Registration by audition only. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Choir I**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course trains beginning choir students in music theory, vocal exercises, and warmups while building a repertoire as a group. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances outside of school is required to fulfill all course objectives. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Choir II**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Audition*

The Einstein School offers a show choir that provides vocal coaching, teaches music theory, and develops performance skills and stage presence. Students are given the opportunity to perform a wide range of musical styles at school functions and in the community. Students are admitted to the choir by audition only. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Introduction to Performing Arts**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this performance-based course, students learn the basics of theatrical performance from all positions and through various lenses. Students are expected to participate in all aspects of performance including acting, technical production, pre-production design, and more. Attendance at all outside rehearsals and performances is required to fulfill all course objectives. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Oral Interpretation**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this class students are taught to analyze and communicate any written text through various vocal, physical, and emotional techniques. This course emphasizes the selection and analysis of written texts, the adaptation of these texts for performance, the reduction of performance anxiety, and the development of a wide range of physical and vocal skills to achieve the interpreted communicative intent of the text in performance.

**Performing Arts (A and B)***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

These courses provide the opportunity to learn about and participate in theatrical performances. Students gain knowledge, skills, and experience in both the performing and technical sides of production. Class time features monologue and scene work, theater games, vocal technique, and rehearsals for fall and spring productions. High school students enroll in Performing Arts A; lower school students enroll in Performing Arts B. Additional fees apply per semester.