



UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL
Performing Fine Arts Magnet

Handbook 2024 - 2025



PERFORMING FINE ARTS MAGNET

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PERFORMING FINE ARTS MAGNET

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PERFORMING FINE ARTS MAGNET

Mission Statement



The goal of the University High School Performing Fine Arts Magnet Program is to create an environment, both in the classroom and at home, in which our students can undergo personal growth through active participation in the arts. We expect our students to become confident, disciplined, well-rounded human beings with a firm foundation of academic knowledge integrated with a love and appreciation for a diverse range of human cultural achievement.

Our program maintains an intense focus on academic and artistic achievement through a rigorous course progression within four possible performance tracks. Students will engage in reviews and recitals mirroring those of accredited colleges and conservatories. The program will offer trips to prominent colleges as our award-winning faculty guide students toward the application and audition process for our nation's leading postsecondary institutions. We firmly believe in the benefit of arts education for all students, whether their future participation in the arts is as a performer, producer, educator, or patron.

You have met the specific and stringent admission requirements for this unique program. The privilege of being a member of the Performing Fine Arts Magnet demands your highest efforts. Your enrollment in this program is contingent upon your maintenance of high expectations for yourself as a student and performer. It is important that you take special care to read and understand the contents of this handbook. Further questions can be addressed to the faculty members for your track.

Congratulations on embarking on this exciting journey! We are excited to see you step onto the stage and show the world what you can achieve!





Academic Course Curriculum

Every Performing Arts Magnet student will participate in a rigorous academic curriculum with an emphasis on classes at the Honors and AP level. Furthermore, it is our expectation that each student will complete the Health Opportunities through Physical Education (HOPE) course online the summer before their freshman year. Additionally, students are invited to take their first year of World Language on campus but are expected to take their second year online.

Performance Tracks

One of the unique opportunities offered by the Performing Fine Arts Magnet Program at University High School is the balance of focus on students' artistic and academic discipline. This is achieved through a curriculum of academic and performing arts classes; each year, students will have the opportunity to take four academic courses and three performing arts courses. The four-year course progression of performing arts courses is designed to mimic a four-year postsecondary program. There is an intense emphasis on acting, singing, dancing, playing, design, and technical theatre which gives students the refined performing skills needed to pursue future college and career opportunities in the arts.

There are four tracks available:

- Dance
- Theatre
- Vocal
- Instrumental
 - Band
 - Orchestra
 - Piano/Guitar

Our performing arts faculty can assist students in selecting the right track based on each student's unique interests, proclivities, and goals.

Track-Specific Courses

Each performance track within the magnet program offers different course progressions for the three magnet classes. A full magnet schedule means that students are enrolled in two track specific courses as laid out in each track progression. The third course listed as "Magnet Elective," is a course approved by the magnet faculty. Following the collegiate model, in the 9th and 10th grade, exceptions to the "magnet elective" will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but will typically be limited to courses needed for graduation. Students in their Junior and Senior year are expected to be enrolled in three UPFA approved courses.



Tracks



Dance

The **Dance Track** encourages dancers to discover their best selves through various dance techniques, creation, professional development, and performing experience. The Dance Track provides instruction in ballet, jazz, and modern technique as well as choreography creation. Dance courses are based on student skill as determined by their audition. This helps ensure that students are grouped with others of similar abilities, allowing for effective learning and progression.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	Ballet 1	Ballet 2	Ballet 3	Ballet 4
Required Course	Dance Repertory 1	Dance Repertory 2	Dance Repertory 3	Dance Repertory 4
Magnet Course 3	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective

Theatre

The **Theatre Track** includes acting, musical theatre, and technical theatre in a natural progression to educate students by modeling and allowing for skills learned to be applied through performance and concept work in after school co-curricular shows. Students will be prepared to audition and/or interview for majors in Theatre and other performing arts degrees.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	Acting 1	Acting 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB Theatre Arts 1 • Technical Theatre 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IB Theatre Arts 3 • Technical Theatre 4
Required Course	Technical Theatre 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Theatre 2 • Musical Theatre 	Directing 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playwriting • Technical Theatre 4 • AP Elective
Magnet Course 3	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective

Students in the Theatre Track participate in IB Theatre Arts instead of Acting for their junior and senior years, allowing our students to complete collegiate level course work, valued as a 6.0 on the GPA scale. During their senior year, students will complete Internal Assessments graded by UPFA Teachers and the International Baccalaureate Organization. If graded as a pass by the IBO, students may be granted college credit based on the College or University's credit acceptance policy. Technical theatre students are encouraged to take the IB course to earn college credit but can remain in technical theatre if preferred.



Vocal

The **Vocal Track** provides students with opportunities in choral and solo voice techniques. Students perform in various ensembles including an SSAA or TTBB chorus based on voice type, and a mixed voice concert choir. They will also take piano, music theory, and vocal techniques to further their musical learning experience. Students in the vocal track will be prepared for auditions at top colleges and universities across the country.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	Chorus 3	Chorus 4	Chorus 5 Honors	Chorus 6 Honors
Required Course	Vocal Techniques 1	Vocal Techniques 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal Techniques 3 • Musical Theatre 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocal Techniques 4 Honors • Musical Theatre 2
Required Course	Keyboard 1	Music History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory Honors • AP Music Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Music Theory • Music Technology & Sound Engineering

Instrumental (Band, Orchestra, Guitar/Piano)

The **Instrumental Track** provides band, orchestra, piano, and guitar students with a collegiate-style musical experience, including multiple performing ensembles, intensive music theory, a sophomore jury, and senior recital.

Required Courses for Band

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	Band 3	Band 4	Band 5 Honors	Band 6 Honors
Required Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble • Big Band • Steel Drums • Approved Magnet Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble • Big Band • Steel Drums • Approved Magnet Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble • Big Band • Steel Drums • Approved Magnet Course 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jazz Ensemble • Big Band • Steel Drums • Approved Magnet Course
Magnet Course 3	Approved Magnet Elective	Music History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory Honors • AP Music Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Music Theory • Music Technology & Sound Engineering



Required Courses for Orchestra

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	Orchestra 3	Orchestra 4	Orchestra 5 Honors	Orchestra 6 Honors
Required Course	Instrumental Techniques 1	Instrumental Techniques 2	Instrumental Techniques 3	Instrumental Techniques 4
Magnet Course 3	Approved Magnet Elective	Music History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory Honors • AP Music Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Music Theory • Music Technology & Sound Engineering

Required Courses for Piano/Guitar

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Required Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboard 1 • Guitar 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboard 2 • Guitar 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboard 3 • Guitar 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keyboard 4 • Guitar 4
Required Course	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective	Approved Magnet Elective
Magnet Course 3	Approved Magnet Elective	Music History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory Honors • AP Music Theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP Music Theory • Music Technology & Sound Engineering

Approved Magnet Electives

Drawing	Ceramics	AP Art
Wind Band	Percussion Ensemble	Steel Drums
Keyboard 1-4	Guitar 1-4	Orchestra
Theatre 1-4	AP Human Geography	Technical Theatre
Advanced Psychology (IB/AICE)	Other AP Courses as approved	Chorus
Jazz Band	Dance Techniques 1	Musical Theatre



Parental Support



Parental Support

Quality education is the result of a joint effort on the part of students, teachers, and parents. Our program and students need support and encouragement. Teachers may be contacted by phone or email. If needed, parents may contact their child's magnet counselor, Mr. Alan Jennings at zachary.jennings@ocps.net to make an appointment with a teacher. Teachers are not available for unscheduled meetings.

Parents are encouraged to become involved by assisting with fundraising activities and field trips. County policy mandates that all parents who interact with students on campus must register as ADDitions volunteers and renew their registration each school year.

The Performing Fine Arts Magnet has a parent board which serves as a resource to the program's teachers and students. The board consists of parents who:

- are interested in working for the overall magnet program
- understand they will be asked to work in a service, and not only advisory, capacity
- will serve on the board for the duration of a single school year (though some may be asked to renew)

The priorities for the magnet Parent Board are marketing, public relations, and fundraising. Parents interested in participating should complete the interest form handed out at the Parent Information meeting no later than **August 25**.



Recitals



Recitals

A goal of the Performing Fine Arts Magnet is to provide students with opportunities to showcase their work and observe performances by peers in a positive, supportive environment. The magnet holds mandatory quarterly recitals to provide these opportunities. Teachers for each track (Vocal, Band, Orchestra, Piano/Guitar, Dance, and Theatre) will select 2-3 performances for each recital. Performers will be notified at least one week prior to the recital. The intent of these recitals is to give our students a place to perform and share their art with peers and mentors. This not only builds individual confidence but also brings our community together.

Recital attendance will be a graded assignment in a track-specific course. Recital attendance will be equally assessed across all tracks as a percentage grade for the course impacted. Students will be provided a recital rubric for this grade.

Students selected to perform will have a walkthrough/dress rehearsal on the Tuesday prior to their selected performance. On recital dates, the doors to the PAC will open at 1:30 PM. Attendance will be taken and the performance will begin at 1:45 PM. The expected end time is approximately 3:00 PM. Students are expected to attend the entire recital and will face a penalty for leaving early. Students who miss a recital for an excused reason will be provided an alternative assignment.

The **Senior Recital** will showcase senior magnet students as an evening performance that all magnet students are expected to attend. Track leaders will decide who performs based on their own expectations. Seniors who have not met track expectations may not be selected to perform.

Recital Attire for Performers

Selected performers should discuss appropriate attire with their track leader. Track leaders will check in with their performers during the dress rehearsal and have the right to remove any event they believe does not meet the discussed performance attire.



Recital Etiquette

1. Respect the right of others to listen and enjoy.
2. Arrive on time and remain throughout the full duration of the recital.
3. Show appreciation appropriately. This may vary based on the type of group performing. Please assume silence followed by polite applause is the appropriate method unless informed otherwise.
4. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during the recital.

Recital Schedule

Recital	Date	Time
Recital 1	October 2, 2024	1:45 - 3:00 PM
Recital 2	December 6, 2024	1:45 - 3:00 PM
Recital 3	March 12, 2025	1:45 - 3:00 PM
Senior Showcase	May 2, 2025	7:00 - 9:00 PM



Expectations & Requirements



Attendance

It is the student's responsibility to attend classes and be on time daily. Unexcused absences over five consecutive days in a quarter, or ten day total per semester, must be excused by a doctor. It is the parents' responsibility to see that any such absences are excused by the school attendance clerk. Magnet students are also expected to attend all required rehearsals and performances for their own track, in addition to recital performances. Although magnet students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, Performing Arts event must be given precedence in a conflict. If a student fails to follow the attendance policy, he or she will be placed on probation the following semester.

Academic

Magnet students must maintain an overall unweighted GPA of 2.5 each semester and 3.0 across magnet classes. It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to regularly monitor student attendance, behavior, and grades, and to provide regular study/practice time at home without distractions. If a student's grades fall below this level, he or she will be placed on probation the following semester.

Behavior

It is the student's responsibility to behave in a dignified and appropriate manner during class, at school, and at all school related events. Students must abide by the OCPS Code of Student Conduct. It is the parents' responsibility to review the OCPS Code of Student Conduct with their child and to work with teachers and administrators if any disciplinary issues arise. Conduct violations will have the following consequences:

- Two violations at Level II will result in probation.
- Any violation at Level III will result in probation.
- Any violation at Level IV will result in probation and recommendation for removal from the magnet program.

Financial

Magnet dues of \$30.00 will be assessed **each school year**. This is in addition to any track-specific assessments that may exist. Magnet dues can be paid via SchoolPay

<https://www.SchoolPay.com/pay/for/University-Performing-Arts-Magnet/MdwJ>



Instrumental Track Juries

Students in the **Instrumental Track** (Band, Orchestra, Piano/Guitar) will perform a sophomore jury in the fourth quarter of their 10th grade year to assess adequate musical proficiency. Each track leader will provide that track's specific expectations and requirements to students and parents. The jury is a pass/fail panel decision by the full instrumental music faculty. Students who fail to demonstrate adequate musical proficiency, or who do not attend their sophomore jury, will be placed on academic probation. One additional opportunity to pass the jury will be given in the fall semester of 11th grade. If adequate musical proficiency has still not be demonstrated, or if the student again fails to attend, that student will be recommended for removal from the magnet program.



Probation & Dismissal



Probation Policy

When any student in the Performing Fine Arts Magnet is placed on probation, students will be notified by the magnet coordinator and/or department chair. The student will be given a form that includes the reason for the probation, which will need to be reviewed by the student and parent and signed and returned to the magnet coordinator.

The issues that resulted in probation must be corrected by the end of the probationary period as determined by the magnet faculty. Failing this, the student may be dismissed from the magnet program.

Any violation of the OCPS Code of Conduct committed while a student is on probation may result in immediate dismissal.

Students on probation may be prohibited from participating in off-campus performances, such as field trips and overnight trips, at the determination of that student's track leader.

Dismissal from the Magnet Program

Students on probation may be removed from the program if the probationary issue is not resolved by the end of the probationary period.

If a student dismissed from the magnet is not zoned for University High School, he or she will return to the zoned school.

If the student is zoned for University High School, his or her course schedule may be adjusted based on class size, magnet-specific course requirements, and student graduation requirements.

Dismissal due to a Level III or Level IV violation of the OCPS Code of Student Conduct may result in removal from all performing arts classes.

Graduation Hood and Cords

Graduating seniors who have successfully completed all requirements for their magnet track are entitled to wear the Performing Fine Arts Magnet's distinctive hood and cords. A graduating senior may not receive these items if all track requirements have not been met.



Acknowledgement



Acknowledgement

I verify that I have read the University High School Performing Arts Magnet Handbook and understand the principles and expectations laid out therein.

I will abide by these principles and expectations to the best of my ability and accept the consequences if I fail to do so.

I understand that failure to comply with the standards of the Performing Arts Magnet may result in probation and possible dismissal from the program.

Student Name (print)

Grade

Student Signature

Date

OCPS Student ID Number

Performance Track

- ☐ Dance
- ☐ Theatre
- ☐ Vocal
- ☐ Instrumental - Band
- ☐ Instrumental - Orchestra
- ☐ Instrumental - Piano/Guitar

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Mobile Phone

Parent/Guardian E-Mail

____/____/_____
Date