Upper School
Arts Course
Offerings
The Upper School arts program is designed to offer students both a survey of the arts and an opportunity to focus in a medium of their choice and begin to develop a confidence in their work on the stage and the canvas. Students must take 2 credits of arts courses to graduate from Upper School and .5 of these credits is received through a mandatory Art History survey course. Full-year courses like Band, Choir, and AP Art earn the students one full credit. Half-year semester courses offer one half credit. Most advanced sections of the course can be taken multiple times to allow students to continue with their study of the medium.

Classes below that are indented have prerequisites, as listed in the course descriptions. Courses marked with an asterisk (*) can be taken multiple times.

**US ARTS COURSES (2019-20)**

**Art History (f/s)** (.5 credit of Art History required; open to juniors and seniors only)

**Art History Honors** – Needs approval from Dean of the Arts and Art History Teacher

*Art History* class is a pathway to visual literacy in our media-saturated world, and a gateway to the larger, interdisciplinary study of culture. This class is designed to teach respect for the power and meaning of cultural difference by virtue of studying a variety of visual artistic traditions ranging from prehistoric cave painting to contemporary art. Although the focus is on the history of painting in cultures both foreign and familiar, the study incorporates comprehension of various spiritual systems, philosophical traditions, and economic and scientific developments in order to better understand the problems and priorities of a given culture as expressed in visual art. Students learn how to examine and decode images patiently as part of the process of developing a sense of their own definition of beauty and quality. The yearlong Honors Art History class explores a much broader variety of artistic production and does so in greater depth.

**Applied Courses (1.5 credits required)**

**Introduction to the Studio Arts (f/s)**

**Printmaking (f/s)** – *Not a prerequisite for AP, Advanced, or Drawing and Painting.*

- **Drawing (f/s)**
- **Painting (f/s)**
- **Advanced Studio Arts (f/s)**

*AP Studio Art – Needs approval and can only be taken after all previous classes in the curriculum have been satisfied. Open to only juniors and seniors.*

*Introduction to the Studio Arts* focuses on the fundamentals of 2D design, composition theory, and color theory, along with developing a greater sensitivity with both the eye and hand. Throughout the semester students will broaden their exposure to important contemporary and historical works of art. Students will experiment with a variety of drawing and painting media while exploring both abstract and representational approaches to art.

*Drawing* enhances the student’s ability to draw by guiding them to shift the way they use their eyes to sense the world around them. Throughout the semester students will learn a variety of drawing techniques to equip them with the skills necessary to take their work to the next level of proficiency. Students will explore a variety of drawing mediums and develop the confidence to take on more ambitious ideas in their work. Prerequisite: *Introduction to Studio Arts.*

*Printmaking* will expose students to the magic of the printmaking process. They will learn about the significance of printmaking in the history of art and learn first-hand how various printmaking tools work. Throughout this process of learning a new medium, students will also be encouraged to push...
outside their comfort zone in relation to the content and ideas that drive their creativity. Prerequisite: *Introduction to Studio Arts.*

*Painting* is a class that focuses on the studio practice and the craft of painting with a heavy focus on oil painting and the fundamentals of proportion and drawing that underpin every great painting. Students will create two to four major canvases throughout the class that explore both the perceived world and the abstract. Prerequisite: *Introduction to Studio Arts.*

In *Advanced Studio Art* students will further refine their craftsmanship and hone their artistic voices. The course will explore how the concept, medium, and execution of an artwork operate in tandem to help students develop an individual style to creating art. Throughout the course students will be exposed to both historical and contemporary concepts and figures in art as a way to find relationships between their own perspectives and others. Students will have the freedom to explore the mediums that speak to them the most and will also be encouraged to take risks with new and different media. By the end of the course students will have a greater understanding of their own artistic point of view along with a deeper level of dexterity, preparing them for AP Studio Art if they choose to pursue it. Prerequisites: *Introduction to Studio Arts, Painting, Drawing*

*AP Studio Art* is the terminal fine arts course offered at Newman. Throughout the course of a year students will produce a portfolio of 29 original works for submission to the College Board in the month of May. Students engage in critiques often and the course is designed as a college level exploration of art, concepts in art and artistic exploration. Students are pushed in this class to go beyond their preconceptions of what art is and create paintings, drawings, prints and other 2 – D Art Forms that express conceptual depth and meaning. Students will visit artist studios, museums and exhibit on and off campus throughout this course. Prerequisites: *Introduction to Studio Arts, Drawing, Painting, Advanced Studio Art.*

*Acting: Stage Performance (f)*  
*Acting: Improvisation (s)*

*Stage Performance* focuses on providing tools, skills, and opportunities for the student actor to perform. Students engage in voice, body and character work. They are introduced to a variety of acting techniques, from Clowning to Meisner. Students learn how to analyze scripts and prepare for a range of genres and texts from Shakespeare to Neil Simon. They apply their newfound skills while performing monologues, two-person scenes, and short plays in front of audiences.

*Improvisation* teaches the student actor how to think quickly on their feet, while building confidence and trust in themselves and the ensemble. Students begin with warmup exercises focused on taking risks and apply the rules of improv while playing theater games. They learn the art of long-form improvisation and write sketch comedy skits. This course culminates in improv and sketch comedy shows performed in front of audiences.

*Band*

The *Newman Concert Band* is our top instrumental ensemble and performs at home Varsity Football games, including our Homecoming Game, and some away playoff games with the support of a volunteer Pep Band. In addition, the Concert Band performs fall and spring concerts for students, parents, and the community, and it competes in the District LMEA Band Assessment, State Assessment, and a national music festival as part of a band trip every other year. Individual awards and honors are available through local district honor concert and jazz band auditions. Other ensembles
periodically offered under the Band umbrella include a percussion ensemble, rock and jazz band, and small chamber groups.

**Music Theory** (s) – *Open to all grade levels.*

This course will introduce the theory of music to students allowing them to read, analyze, and write music. The class will cover: note reading, rhythms, meter, scales, chords, harmony, cadences, chord progression, and light history. This class is great for both beginners hoping to learn how to read music and musicians working to improve their skills and understanding of music notation.

**Intro to Strings** (f/s) – *Open to all grade levels.*

*Strings Ensemble* (f/s)

*Intro to Strings* introduces students to the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Heavy focus will be placed on playing technique to ensure continued success on the instrument. As students’ progress through the semester, they will move from playing unison parts to individual orchestral parts. The semester project is a performance for peers.

*String Ensemble* is for students who have already taken Intro to Strings or have been playing violin, viola, cello, or bass for some time and developed a strong competency in the instrument. In string ensemble, we will continue to improve playing techniques while exploring different ways to perform on our instruments including but not limited to classical, folk, and rock music. Students are encouraged to express their creativity and help find selections for our end-of-semester performance. Prerequisite: *Intro to Strings.*

*Choir*

*Upper School Choir* is a non-auditioned ensemble which meets daily. It is designed to encourage all students who have an interest in developing their skills in group singing. It will help develop the student’s knowledge of choral literature, music theory concepts, and sight singing, as well as enrich their love of music. Repertoire is selected to provide sequential, systematic concepts and performance skills associated with varying musical content and style. Each student who participates in this organization will be eligible for and have the opportunity to audition and perform in district, state, regional, and national honor choirs sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association.

**Introduction to Ceramics** (f/s)

*Ceramics – Int/Adv* (f/s)

*Introduction to Ceramics* serves as a starting point for students exploring ceramics as a three-dimensional art medium. Students will learn various hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques, using mid-range stoneware clay for both functional and sculptural creations. Projects will become increasingly more involved as the semester progresses and will expand upon the fabrication skill set learned from each previous project. In addition to these basic techniques, students will also gain a working knowledge of overall surface decoration, proper glaze application, and electric kiln firings. Students will be exposed to basic ceramic terminology and also both formal and conceptual aesthetic qualities. The learning processes and experiences in this course will provide students with a new vocabulary in art making and self-expression.

*Intermediate/Advanced Ceramics* class explores clay as a three-dimensional art medium with a heightened focus on each individual’s particular interests learned in the introduction course. Students will be able to concentrate on their ceramic strengths, choosing either hand-building or wheel-throwing
techniques, using low-fire terracotta and mid-range stoneware clay. Projects will become increasingly complex as the semester progresses and will expand upon the fabrication skill-set learned from previous projects. In addition to these techniques, students will also expand their working knowledge of overall surface decoration, proper glaze application, and electric kiln firings. Prerequisite: Introduction to Ceramics.

**Dance – Choreography (f/s)**

*Dance – Technique* (Full-year course)

*Dance – Choreography* is a course that introduces students to the principles and practices of creating dance choreography as a form of human expression. We will create movement using imagination, improvisation and source material; manipulation of movement using elements of composition, observation, critical analysis and self-reflection. The elements of body, shape, and time will be the basis of study and creation for the class. Because we will focus on improvisation and invention, previous dance experience is not necessary for participation in this class.

*Dance – Technique* focuses on the basic elements of dance technique, including classical and contemporary forms of dance. We will explore the origins of contemporary American forms, social dance, historical (classical), modern, and ballet and their influence on current trends in dance. This class will be physical and students should be prepared to change into suitable attire daily. Prerequisite: *Dance Choreography*.

**Intro to Film Production**

*Film Production Practicum* (f)

*Film Production Practicum* (Full-year course)

In *Intro to Film Production*, students will be introduced to cinematic storytelling and video production. The emphasis of the course will be on the narrative short form, but with an overview of film history and criticism. Topics will include screenwriting, visual language and aesthetics, shooting strategies, editing techniques, marketing, and formalist and cultural theory. Prerequisite: *Intro to Film Production*.

*Film Production Practicum* allows the experienced film student to delve deeper into areas of individual interest with a continued focus on visual storytelling and communication. Topics may include but are not limited to documentary, screenwriting, cinematography, advanced post production, narrative short production, experimental, or music video. Prerequisite: *Intro to Film Production*. *Open only to students in grades 10, 11, and 12 – if Intro has not been taken approval of Film Teacher and Dean of the Arts is needed.*

*Photography (f/s)*

*Photojournalism – Yearbook*

In *Photography* students will explore the photographic process involved in digital media. They will learn about the history of photography and explore a variety of genres in the medium, including portraiture, street photography, narrative photography, and the digital manipulation of photographs. Students will be engaged both technically and conceptually when it comes to their work. They will be exposed to Photoshop and all the possibilities it affords their art, along with more traditional approaches to shooting images. This course can be taken multiple times for students who want to dive deeper. Each successive time they take the course they will be challenged to refine not only their thinking about their work, but the skillfulness involved in its creation.
Photojournalism is Newman’s yearbook course. Students will work within the publication of the yearbook for an entire year. They will develop responsibilities around editing or creating the design content for the yearbook itself. Documenting the year’s activities will also play a large role in the creation of the yearbook. This class is recommended for sophomores, juniors and seniors, but can be open to freshman by approval.

**The Art of Making (f/s)**

**Creative Coding (f/s)**

- **AP Computer Science A** – Needs approval from Makerspace teacher and Dean of the Arts.
- **Advanced Topics in Computer Science and Making**

The Art of Making is a hands-on introduction to the technology and mindsets of making. Projects will introduce students to coding, engineering, and Design Thinking by leveraging tools like Arduinos, 3D printers, laser cutters, and more. Wearable tech, line-following robots, and electronic music instruments are just a few examples of potential projects created in this course.

Creative Coding employs the computer programming language JavaScript as a medium for creative expression. “Algorithmic” and generative art, interactive web apps, data visualizations, and virtual reality are just a few examples of the creative potential of code explored through projects.

**AP Computer Science A** is equivalent to an introductory college-level computer science course. The course uses the object-oriented programming language Java to explore data structures, algorithms, program analysis, and ethical impacts of computing. Prerequisite: Creative Coding, The Art of Making.

**Advanced Topics in Computer Science and Making** builds on a foundation of computer science and digital fabrication coursework in the exploration of topics such as full-stack app development, home automation, machine learning, and data science. Students demonstrate mastery of advanced computing and making concepts through hands-on projects. Prerequisite: Creative Coding.

**Tech Theater – Intro (f/s)**

**Tech Theater – Intermediate (f/s)**

**Tech Theater Workshop (Full-year course)**

Tech Theater Intro class offers an introduction to the basics of scenery design and stagecraft. The intro class focuses on storytelling in a theatrical setting through design projects using carpentry and scenic painting. Basic theatrical terminology and techniques in addition to the safe handling of scene shop tools is emphasized while practicing the steps in the design process.

Tech Theater Intermediate class is a continuation of the Intro class focusing on costuming and sewing as well as theatrical storytelling through technology, lighting, and sound. Prerequisite: Tech Theater Intro.

Tech Theater Workshop is a continuation of the Tech Theater Intermediate class. Students wishing to learn more about theater design and production, fabrication, and management are encouraged to enroll in this full-year course. Students will focus on continuing the design process by designing, fabricating, and implementing scenic elements into a Newman Production. Tech Theater Workshop students are required to work crew for one Newman Theatrical Production per semester. Prerequisites: Tech Theater Intro, Intermediate Tech Theater.