

Course Outline Year 9 Semester 2 2026

Arts

Course Description and Aims

The arts in the MYP seek to stimulate young imaginations, challenge perceptions and develop creative and analytical skills. Involvement in the arts encourages students to understand the arts in context and the cultural histories of artworks, thus supporting the development of an inquiring and empathetic world view. The arts challenge and enrich personal identity, and build awareness of the aesthetic in a real-world context. Through development of the imagination, students can become more empathetic and compassionate, they can enrich their cultural lives and discover new ways to contribute actively both to their own communities and to the world. The MYP values the processes of creating, performing and presenting artwork, and gives students opportunities to function as artists and to develop as learners. Students learn to use the arts to convey feelings, experiences and ideas about the world, and in doing so they acquire and develop techniques and creative skills. They learn the value of reflection and evaluation as a means of developing their ideas, their skills and their work.

MYP Assessment Criteria

Criterion A: Investigating

Through the study of art movements or genres and artworks/performances, students come to understand and appreciate the arts. They use their research skills to draw on a range of sources, and they develop information literacy skills to evaluate and select relevant information about the art movement or genre and artworks/performances.

Criterion B: Developing

Students develop ideas through practical exploration, which provides the opportunity for active participation in the art form. Practical exploration requires students to acquire and develop skills/techniques and to experiment with the art form. Students use both practical exploration and knowledge and understanding of art and artworks to purposefully inform artistic intentions and decisions.

Criterion C: Creating or performing

The students' command of skills and techniques is demonstrated through the creation or performance of a finalised artwork that is summatively assessed.

Criterion D: Evaluating

Through reflecting on their work and on themselves, students become more aware of their own artistic development and the role that the arts play in their lives and in the world.

Course Outline

In Years 9 and 10, students extend their creative and expressive capacities through semester-long Arts electives. Building upon the foundational skills developed in Years 7 and 8, students now have the opportunity to choose areas of specialisation that align with their interests, talents, and future aspirations.

Through these studies, students engage with the IB MYP Arts framework, which fosters conceptual understanding, technical skill, and personal expression. They explore how artists and performers communicate ideas, reflect on their own creative processes, and develop confidence as innovative and reflective practitioners. Each semester, students may choose to select one Arts elective. Across the two years, they may experience a range of disciplines or choose to specialise within a particular field of performance, production, or visual expression.

Arts Electives:

Music Performance – Students develop instrumental or vocal skills, ensemble collaboration, and stagecraft through rehearsals and live performance experiences.

Music Production – Students explore digital music creation, recording, and sound engineering, learning to compose, edit, and produce original works using industry-standard software.

Senior Drama – Students engage in improvisation, acting techniques, and character development through a range of scripted and devised activities.

Theatre Production – Students take part in performance projects that integrate acting, set design, lighting, and backstage roles to produce a complete theatre piece.

Performance in Movement – Students express ideas through physical theatre, dance, and movement-based storytelling, developing awareness of body, space, and rhythm.

Senior Visual Arts – Students extend their skills across 2D, 3D, and mixed media practices, developing personal visual language through drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art.

Photography – Students explore digital and traditional photographic techniques, learning to capture, edit, and present images that communicate mood, concept, and narrative.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment Task	Due*
Process Journal: Research and Analysis	Week 5
Performance/Artwork Portfolio and Evaluation	Week 13
Process Journal: Concept, Artist Statements and Critique	Week 15

**Due date subject to change at classroom teacher discretion.*

Approaches to Learning

Communication skills, Collaboration skills, Self-management skills, Research skills and Thinking skills.

Australian Curriculum Achievement Standard

The Achievement Standard for Year 9 Arts is based on the Australian Curriculum v9 The Arts <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>.