



New Mexico School for the Arts

Curriculum Guide, 2010-11

NMSA students will normally take six units, or the equivalent, per semester.
Courses required for students entering Grade 9 in or after the 2009-2010 school year:

HS Graduation Requirements

- 4 units in English
- 4 units in Mathematics, of which 1 unit shall be equivalent to or higher than the level of Algebra 2
- 3 units in Science, 2 units of which shall have a laboratory component
- 3 ½ units in Social Science; including:
 - U.S and World History and Geography,
 - Government, Economics,
 - ½ unit of New Mexico History
- 1 unit in Physical Education
- 1 unit in one of the following:
 - a career cluster course,
 - workplace readiness or
 - a language other than English (NMSA recommends two units).
- 7 ½ elective units

Offerings 2010-11

Dance

1102 Ballet Technique - Classes emphasize building a strong technique while encouraging each student to develop her/his musicality, expressiveness, and unique movement quality. Classes provide each dancer with the fundamentals of ballet technique from the barre to the center, including proper placement, line, strength, agility, as well as an understanding of the necessity of ballet training to support the full potential of any dancer/performer.

1102 Contemporary Technique - Classes emphasize building a strong and varied technique including a powerful torso core, dynamic and clear movement, a facile physical instrument, musicality, and artistic expression. Classes are designed to expand movement quality and aesthetic sensibility and will include a variety of contemporary styles to ensure versatility.

Pointe Technique - A comprehensive beginning to advanced level study of pointe work. These classes will also include classical and neo-classical variations.

Men's Class - Classes to advance the specific technical and physical requirements of the male dancer including jumps, turns, and strength training for partnering. These classes will also include variations and conditioning.

1106 Ballet Coaching - Structured to accelerate progress by consolidating steps and movements, applying ballet technique to contemporary movement, and encouraging each dancer to find her or his own passion for this base of all movement.

2314 Body conditioning/strengthening/awareness and Anatomy/kinesthesiology - To increase strength, balance, and health, these classes will increase each dancer's body awareness and understanding of the manner in which the body moves.

Partnering - Partnering is given in two styles, contemporary and classical. Contemporary partnering encompasses the wide range demanded by today's choreographers and is required for all dancers. Classical partnering is given for those women taking advanced pointe and required of all men.

Dance History - Using the Merrill Brockway library as a resource, this class will provide an overview of dance styles, terminology and history.

1103 Improvisation - This class provides an opportunity for each dancer to explore her or his unique movement style while working in a collaborative

atmosphere with others. This class is a deep exploration of movement without technical restrictions, eliciting cooperation while opening the mind and the body.

English Language and Literature

1001 English/Language Arts I - Required for Graduation - Grade 9 - This course builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing, and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read across a wide variety of genres of literature, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and graphic novels; comparative studies of literature and film may also be included. Examples of authors students will study include William Shakespeare, N. Scott Momaday, Michael Dorris, Gary Soto, Art Spiegelman, and selected works of mythology. Students will complete a variety of writing exercises in a number of genres; these exercises will often be linked to reading selections.

1002 English/Language Arts II - Required for Graduation - Grade 10 – This course offers a balanced focus on composition and literature. Typically, students learn about the alternate aims and audiences of written compositions by writing persuasive, critical, and creative multi paragraph thematic essays and compositions; students will also experiment with writing various forms of fiction, memoir, and poetry. The study of literature encompasses various genres as students improve their reading rate and comprehension and develop the skills to determine authors' intent and theme and to recognize the techniques employed by the author to achieve the goal. Authors students will read include Voltaire, Aldous Huxley, William Shakespeare, Julia Alvarez, and David Small; comparative studies of literature and film may also be included.

1003 English/Language Arts III - Required for Graduation - Grade 11 - Course continues to develop students' writing skills, emphasizing clear, logical writing patterns, word choice, and usage, as students write essays and begin to learn the techniques of writing research papers. Students continue to read works of literature, which often form the backbone of the writing assignments. Authors studied will include William Shakespeare, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, Leslie Marmon Silko, John Steinbeck, Mat Johnson, and others. Literary conventions and stylistic devices will receive greater emphasis than in previous courses. Preparation for the PSAT may be included.

Foreign Language and Literature

1252 Spanish I - Recommended for Students Grades 9 - 12 - Course introduces students to the basic skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - and to the basic structures of Spanish taught within the cultural context. Emphasis will be placed on oral and written communication skills. Students are made aware of the importance of Spanish in their world.

1253 Spanish II - Student Grades 9 - 12 - Course continues to develop communicative skills. There is wider use of Spanish not only in classroom management, but also in teaching concepts. Emphasis is on sustained communication, both oral and written. An appreciation of the culture of Spanish speaking countries is enhanced.

1254 Spanish III - Student Grades 10 - 12 - Course further refines, reinforces, and develops the skills and cultural awareness previously acquired in the first two levels. A greater emphasis is placed on reading and on communicating orally and in writing. The importance of Spanish in career fields continues to be emphasized.

1255 Spanish IV - Student Grades 11, 12 - Course promotes oral and written communication. Selected readings in Hispanic literature, culture, and current events will be the focus.

Life and Physical Sciences

1741 Integrated Science – Required Grade 9 - The specific content of Integrated Science emanates from suggestions by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the National Association for the Advancement of Science. The class will address earth, life and physical science by teaching the “power standards” for each. The class will use all of the tools of science research and organize the material around thematic units. Common themes include systems, models, energy, patterns, change, and constancy. Appropriate aspects from each specialty are used to investigate applications of the theme.

1711 Biology- First Year - Student Grades 10, 11 - Course is designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. Topics covered include (but are not restricted to) cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy.

1721 Chemistry- First Year - Student Grades 10, 11 - Course involves the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. The behaviors of solids, liquids, and gases; acid/base and oxidation/reduction reactions; and atomic structure are typical concepts explored in Chemistry-First Year courses. Chemical formulas and equations and nuclear reactions are also studied.

1731 Physics- First Year – Student Grades 10, 11 - Course involves the study of the forces and laws of nature affecting matter: equilibrium, motion, momentum, and the relationships between matter and energy. The study of physics includes examination of sound, light, magnetic, and electric phenomenon.

Mathematics

2031 Algebra I – Student Grades 9, 10 - The course will cover a variety of basic level algebraic and geometry skills fundamental to secondary mathematics. Topics include solving, deriving, and graphing of linear equations; manipulation of basic polynomial forms; solving and graphing of quadratic equations, both by factoring and by application of the quadratic formula; solving linear systems by various methods; radical expressions and equations; applications of formulas; algebraic problem solving; and various additional topics. This is a one-period full-year course, required for graduation. Students succeeding in the course are expected to continue to Geometry.

2034 Geometry – Student Grades 9, 10, 11 - Prerequisite: Successfully meeting the requirements of Algebra I. The course will focus on the fundamental principles of geometry, applications of geometry to algebra, using logic as a lens of understanding and describing. Topics include fundamental vocabulary of planar shape, principles of geometric relationships and behavior with particular emphasis on points, lines, angles, and triangles; Pythagorean Theorem and principles of triangle similarity; review of perimeter, area, and volume principles and applications; coordinate geometry; proofs. Additional topics will be drawn from the domains of circles and arcs and three-dimensional geometry at the teacher's discretion. This is a one-period full-year course, required for graduation. Students succeeding in this course are expected to continue to Algebra II

2041 Algebra II - Student Grades 10, 11 - Prerequisite: Successfully meeting the requirements of Algebra I and Geometry. The course will focus on advanced topics of algebra, interaction of geometry and algebra, equation solving and graphing, and problem solving. Topics will include quadratic equations, polynomial equations, conic sections, rational polynomials, algebraic (radical) equations, common logarithms, exponential equations, linear and quadratic systems, inequalities and functions. Other topics (matrices, statistics and probability, summation) will be included as time allows. This is a one-period full-year course, required for graduation. Students succeeding in this course may continue to Pre-Calculus.

2053 Pre-Calculus - Student Grade 11 - Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II and Geometry. This course will consolidate and expand upon topics introduced in Geometry and Algebra II. Also included will be natural logarithms, methodologies of problem solving, linear algebra, limits and summation, sequences, extensive graphing techniques, theories of functions, and inequalities. The trigonometry component will focus on principles of angle measurement and the relationship between circular and linear behavior; the six fundamental trigonometric functions – their behavior and applications; trigonometric identities; inverse trigonometric functions; graphs of trigonometric

functions; parametric equations; polar graphing; complex numbers; and extensive problem solving. Course emphasis will be on refining personal mathematical skills, development of a mathematical intuition, and readiness for Calculus.

Music

1129 Applied Lesson Study - Students receive weekly one-hour private lessons in voice, or on his/her particular instrument, with a specialized lesson instructor. Instruction will cultivate students' technique and musicianship through assigned studies of technical exercises and solo repertoire; assignments and practice requirements will be at the discretion of the applied lesson instructor.

Instrumental/Vocal Seminar - Seminar classes will afford students opportunities to perform for and be constructively critiqued by their peers, as well as occasions to welcome and learn from professional guest lecturers and performers from across the region, state, and nation.

1124 String Orchestra - NMSA String Orchestra is a performance ensemble for all string students. Students will develop ensemble-playing skills, learn to perform a variety of musical styles, and examine historical, theoretical, and aesthetic aspects of repertoire for performance.

1120 Instrumental Ensemble - NMSA Instrumental Ensemble is a performance ensemble for all instrumental students who do not play piano, guitar, or string instruments. Students will develop ensemble-playing skills, learn to perform a variety of musical styles, and examine historical, theoretical, and aesthetic aspects of repertoire for performance.

1133 Guitar Ensemble - NMSA Guitar Ensemble is a performance ensemble for all guitar students. Students will develop ensemble-playing skills, learn to perform a variety of musical styles, and examine historical, theoretical, and aesthetic aspects of repertoire for performance.

1131 Chorus - NMSA Chorus is a vocal ensemble for all NMSA students. Students will be exposed to a broad repertoire intended to build community and foster an appreciation for music-making as an art form and for the vocal ensemble as a medium.

1131 Choir - NMSA Choir is a vocal ensemble for all music students. Students will develop basic vocal techniques and will perform representative works from throughout the choral repertoire.

1131 Chamber Singers - NMSA Chamber Singers is a performance ensemble for all vocal students. Students will develop ensemble-performance skills, learn to

perform a variety of musical styles, and examine historical, theoretical, and aesthetic aspects of repertoire for performance.

1141 Music Theory: Basic/Intermediate - Course teaches an understanding of the fundamental structure of music as a language. Students study and analyze functions of melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and the notation of each. (Students complete a placement exam upon admission to NMSA, are assigned to a level commensurate with current understanding, and study Music Theory, in conjunction with Aural Training and Sight-Singing, during each year of their NMSA enrollment.)

Aural Training: Basic/Intermediate - Taken in conjunction with Music Theory and Sight-Singing, Aural Training is a laboratory class that enhances performance and understanding in all other music courses by training students to aurally identify and record melodic and harmonic intervals, rhythms, and chord progressions. (Students study Aural Training during each year of their NMSA enrollment.)

Sight-Singing - Taken in conjunction with Music Theory, Aural Training, and NMSA Choir, Sight-Singing is a laboratory class that enhances performance and understanding in all other music courses by training students to read and vocally perform melodic intervals, melodies, and rhythms using solfège and rhythmic syllables. (Students study Sight-Singing during each year of their NMSA enrollment.)

1144 History of Music I - Course surveys the influence of religion, politics, culture, economy, and individuals over the development of Western art music. Students learn to characterize and appreciate the progression of musical aesthetics from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, and the twentieth century movements that responded to that progression. (History of Music I is required of all NMSA juniors.)

1127 Group Piano - Course reinforces music theory concepts and teaches basic keyboard techniques, including scales, chords, and simple two-hand repertoire. (Group Piano is required of all NMSA sophomores, though piano “majors” are exempt and other students may be exempt after demonstrating proficiency.)

Semester Juries - An adjudicating panel of NMSA music faculty hears students perform solo works and other musical requirements in order to evaluate each student’s semester progress.

Junior/Senior Recitals - All music department juniors are required to present a 30-minute solo recital, all seniors a 45-minute solo recital. Students will work with their applied instructor to select and prepare repertoire, compose program notes for all pieces to be performed, and collaborate with an accompanist when

necessary. Jury requirements will be waived during the semesters in which a student performs recitals.

Physical Education

2314 Fitness/Conditioning Activities – Required for Graduation - Course that provides instruction and development of skills in physical fitness.

Social Sciences and History

2717 New Mexico History – Required for Graduation – Student Grades 9-11 – This survey course supports students to become more knowledgeable and aware of the historical, cultural, economic, and political history of New Mexico and their geographical connections. Particular attention will be paid to the enduring legacy of colonization. Students will analyze the role that New Mexico plays in national and international arenas. The 9-12 Social Studies Content Standards, Benchmarks, and Performance Standards will be included as appropriate to the course. One semester only.

2706 World History and Geography – Required for Graduation – Student Grades 10 - 11 - Course covers the major eras and important turning points in world history from the Age of Enlightenment to the present. Included within this course is world geography to support geographical concepts as they relate to the understanding of the changes throughout the world. Particular attention will be given to the development of world trade routes and the cultural exchanges they facilitated. In addition 9-12 Social Studies Benchmarks and Performance Standards (History, Civics and Government, Economics and Geography) will be included as appropriate to the course.

2729 U.S. History/Geography - Required for Graduation Student Grade 11 - Course examines the history and impact of major eras, events, and individuals in United States history since the Civil War and Reconstruction. Included within this course is U.S. Geography to support geographical concepts as they relate to the understanding of the development of the United States. In addition 9-12 Social Studies Benchmarks and Performance Standards (History, Civics, and Government, Economics and Geography) will be included as appropriate to the course.

Special/Exceptional Education

2802 Special Resources - Course provides students with educational services and resources as needed. Reinforcement of any content area may be offered

with the use of specific materials or teaching techniques through group instruction or individual tutorial assistance.

0803 Study Skills - Courses prepare students for success in high school or for post secondary education. Course topics may vary according to the audience, but may include reading improvement skills, such as scanning, note taking, and outlining; library and research skills; listening, note taking, and vocabulary skills; and test taking skills. The course may also include exercises to generate organized and logical thinking and writing.

Theater

1111 Introduction to the Theater - Required Grade 9 - This is an introductory course open to any student at the school. It is recommended for any student who has not studied theater. This class develops a comprehensive overview of the art form. Students will be introduced to acting styles and techniques. Freeing the performer's imagination, improvisational techniques, developing ease on stage working with others. Brief introduction to theater history, scene and monologue work.

1113 Drama-Acting/Character Development - Required for any student who has not taken a similar focused class in the past. This class will build on any actor's skills in regards to advanced character development. Students will study in depth several systems for building and maintaining characters in a variety of styles. Students will also explore a unit in Stage Make-up.

1113 Drama-/Performance – Student Grade 10, 11 - This class continues to build on the performer's technique, stage presence and ease in performance. Students are exposed to advanced systems of textual analysis through scene and group projects. The class will culminate in the performance of scripts written and developed by the students in the playwriting class.

1115 Directing – Student Grade 11 - (This class may run concurrently with Drama/Performance.) In this class students are exposed to several different styles of directing, creating a personal aesthetic in approaching a text and production time management skills. Students will also direct the Drama/Performance students in the production of plays written and developed by the students in the Playwriting class.

1116 Playwriting – Student Grade 10, 11 - Students will gain a refined sense of dramatic structure by exploring established texts and through the writing of personal monologues and scenes. Students will also write a one-act play for publication submittal and possible inclusion in a public performance directed by students in the directing class and performed by the students in the performance class. Students will also write and perform a solo performance piece.

1112 Drama/Stagecraft-Independent Study – Student Grades 10, 11 -

Aspects of theatrical design, construction and management will be introduced and explored both in the classroom and in the community. This class will also act as the support mechanism for all NMSA theatrical productions. Students will work on basics of design with the teacher and community mentors affiliated with local venues.

Performing Art-Independent Study – Student Grade 11 -

Students will focus on an area of study which will support and enhance mastery of their craft.

Students will be working with the teacher and mentors in identified areas such as: Voice, Dance, and Acting.

Visual Arts

1162 Drawing – Student Grade 9 Required - An introduction to basic skills, concepts, and elements utilized in the language of drawing. A wide variety of tools and materials will be used to investigate line, value, form, texture, and color, with an emphasis on developing drawings based on direct observation.

1161 Visual Language – Student Grade 9 Required - An introduction to the language of visual expression, using studio projects to explore the fundamental principles of visual art. Directed journal/sketchbook projects emphasize investigation and experimentation. Topics covered are applicable to two-dimensional and three-dimensional design. Projects utilize a wide range of media including but not limited to paper, paint, wire, wood, fabric, found objects, photography, clay, and other materials gathered from nature and popular culture.

1162 Drawing II - Student Grade 10, 11 - Two semesters required for graduation. Continued study and expanded vocabulary of the skills and concepts of drawing through a variety of materials and traditions. Emphasis is on experimentation and invention, including the development of personal subject matter and content. Distinctive and/or unusual drawing techniques may be introduced in this class.

1161 Comprehensive Studio – Student Grade 10 Required - Course builds upon 9th grade Visual Language by introducing media-specific, distinct studio disciplines, as follows:

Introduction to Painting (9 weeks)

Introduction to Printmaking/Mixed Media (9 weeks)

Introduction to Clay Sculpture/Mixed Media (9 weeks)

Introduction to Digital Photography (9 weeks)

Journal/sketchbook use will be a primary investigative tool that will thread the distinct disciplines into a cohesive whole such that students begin to identify personal interests.

Painting – Student Grade 10, 11 - Instruction in the fundamentals of painting: form, space, and surface (paint use and application), utilizing the language of color and drawing. Emphasis is on working from observation in both representational and nonrepresentational modes. Material and historical concerns are an integral part of instruction and investigation. One semester only.

1163 Sculpture – Student Grades 10, 11 - Instruction in the concepts of design and form in sculpture. Historical, aesthetic and technical strategies generate projects for students to realize three-dimensional form. A wide range of materials and physical processes are explored, building and expanding on the material and aesthetic vocabulary of previous three-dimensional studio experiences.

1152 Art History – Student Grades 9, 10, 11 - Course introduces significant works of art, artists, and artistic movements that have shaped the art world and have influenced or reflected periods of history. The evolution of art forms, techniques, symbols, and themes will be explored.

1183 AP Studio Art-Drawing Portfolio – Student Grade 11- This course enables students to refine their skill and create artistic works to be submitted to the College Board for evaluation and possible college credit. The course emphasizes quality of work, attention to and exploration of a particular visual interest or problem, and breadth of experience in the formal, technical, and expressive aspects of drawing. Representation, abstraction, and experimentation with a variety of drawing materials are explored.

1158 AP Studio Art 2-D Design – Student Grade 11 – The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing a portfolio demonstrating a broad interpretation of two-dimensional issues. This involves the students in purposeful decision-making about how to use the elements of art in an integrative and mature manner. Students will submit portfolios to the College Board for evaluation and possible college credit, following AP guidelines.

DRAFT 7/7/10