

High School Graduation Plan Options

Fine Arts Courses

Visual Art

- Art I
- Ceramics II / III / IV
- Drawing II / III / IV
- Digital Art & Media II / III / IV
- Painting II / III / IV
- Sculpture II / III / IV
- AP 2D Design Portfolio
- AP 3D Design Portfolio
- AP Drawing Portfolio
- AP Art History

Music

- Band I / II / III / IV
- Color Guard I / II / III / IV
- Jazz Ensemble I / II / III / IV
- Choral Music I / II / III / IV
- Vocal Ensemble I / II / III / IV
- Orchestra I / II / III / IV
- AP Music Theory
- Music Appreciation

Dance

- Dance I (Fine Arts credit)
- Dance I (PE credit)
- Dance II (Fine Arts credit)
- Dance II (PE credit)
- Dance III / IV
- Dance Team I / II / III / IV

Theatre

- Theatre Arts I (Introductory)
- Theatre Arts II / III / IV
- Technical Theatre I / II / III
- Theatre Production I / II / III

Foundation Plan + Arts & Humanities Endorsement (26 credits)				
Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	English I	English II	English III	ELA Course
2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II or Advanced Math	Advanced Math
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science
4	World Geography	World History (Elective)	U.S. History	Government/Economics
5	Fine Arts I (Fine Arts credit)	Fine Arts II	Fine Arts III	Fine Arts IV
6	World Languages I	World Languages II	Health/Speech	Elective (Open)
7	PE (Elective with PE Sub.)	Elective	Elective	Elective
Distinguished Achievement Plan (Algebra II) + Arts & Humanities (or Second) Endorsement (26 credits)				
Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	English I	English II	English III	ELA Course
2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Advanced Math
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science
4	World Geography	World History (Elective)	U.S. History	Government/Economics
5	Fine Arts I (Fine Arts credit)	Fine Arts II	Fine Arts III	Fine Arts IV
6	World Languages I	World Languages II	Health/Speech	PE (Elective with PE Sub.)
7	Elective (Endorsement B-I)	Elective (Endorsement B-II)	Elective (Endorsement B-III)	Elective (Endorsement B-IV)
Distinguished Achievement Plan (Algebra II) + Arts & Humanities Endorsement (26 credits) with Athletics During All Four Years				
Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	English I	English II	English III	ELA Course
2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Advanced Math
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science
4	World Geography	World History (Elective)	U.S. History	Government/Economics
5	Fine Arts I (Fine Arts credit)	Fine Arts II	Fine Arts III	Fine Arts IV
6	World Languages I	World Languages II	Health/Speech	Elective
7	Athletics I (PE credit)	Athletics II	Athletics III	Athletics IV
Distinguished Achievement Plan + STEM Endorsement in Math (26 credits) with Fine Arts During All Four Years				
Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	English I	English II	English III	ELA Course
2	Geometry (STEM)	Algebra II (STEM)	Pre-Calculus (STEM)	Calculus (STEM)
3	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Advanced Science
4	World Geography	World History (Elective)	U.S. History	Government/Economics
5	Fine Arts I (Fine Arts credit)	Fine Arts II	Fine Arts III	Fine Arts IV
6	PE (Elective with PE Sub.)	World Languages I	World Languages II	Health/Speech
7	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Distinguished Achievement Plan + STEM Endorsement (Science or Math) with Pre-AP/AP Courses and Fine Arts Courses During All Four Years				
Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	Pre-AP English I	Pre-AP English II	English III AP	English IV AP
2	Pre-AP Geometry (STEM)	Pre-AP Algebra II (STEM)	Pre-AP Pre-Calculus (STEM)	Calculus AB or BC AP (STEM)
3	Pre-AP Biology (STEM)	Pre-AP Chemistry (STEM)	AP Physics (STEM)	AP Biology/Chem./Physics II (STEM)
4	Pre-AP World Geography	World History AP	U.S. History AP	Government AP/Economics AP
5	Fine Arts I (Fine Arts credit)	Fine Arts II (Elective)	Fine Arts III (Elective)	Fine Arts IV (Elective)
6	PE (Elective with PE Sub.)	Health/Speech	Elective	Elective
7	World Languages I	World Languages II	Pre-AP World Languages III	World Languages IV AP

Should I Take Fine Arts In High School?

Students worry about whether there is enough room in their high school schedule to take a Fine Arts class. Actually, every high school student is required to take one Fine Arts credit in order to meet Texas graduation requirements. Listed on the next pages are several graduation plans that include taking four years of a Fine Arts course. Additionally, those students enrolled in band or dance team receive a PE substitution credit for their after-school participation, thus substituting these Fine Arts courses for a PE class. You'll see that there is ample room in your schedule for a Fine Arts course during all four years of high school.

What Are the Benefits of Fine Arts Courses?

- Connections:** In the large, overwhelming climate of a high school campus, connecting to a group of students with interests similar to yours is very helpful. Participation in Fine Arts enables students to collaborate, form close friendships, and work with their peers as part of a team, developing responsibility and good citizenship.
- Leadership:** Fine Arts organizations offer extensive student leadership programs. Fine Arts students depend heavily on one another to achieve group goals and student leaders are integral in achieving organizational success. Also, holding leadership positions in an organization can bolster your resume for college.
- College Entrance:** Colleges and universities today seek out students having a well-rounded high school experience. In addition to GPA and SAT scores, institutions of higher learning are searching for students that have demonstrated commitment, leadership, and dedication to organizations outside the academic arena. Fine Arts graduates from FBISD schools have attended Harvard, Yale, Berkeley, Princeton, Rice, Texas A&M, UT, Baylor, and other nationally-ranked universities and colleges. Also, research shows that students who have had four years of Fine Arts score higher on the SAT and ACT.
- A Place to Belong:** Students in Fine Arts courses are very inclusive, accepting people as they are. It's great to be someone, rather than just a face in the crowd. Research shows that belonging to a group tends to improve grades and school attendance, while decreasing substance abuse, emotional distress, and suicidal ideation.

What if I'm Not Sure?

Since you need at least one Fine Arts credit to graduate, why not enroll in a Fine Arts course during your Freshman year? Once you stop practicing those artistic skills for a while, it is extremely difficult to rejoin. Give it a year and like most high school students, you'll probably find that high school Fine Arts classes are fun, rewarding, challenging, give you a place to belong, provide a place to meet friends, teach you discipline, time management, critical thinking skills, and teamwork. Many students continue their artistic endeavors well beyond high school.

Graduation Plans

Foundation – 22 credits

Foundation + Endorsement – 26 credits

Distinguished Level of Achievement – 26 credits (students must complete Algebra II)

Core Requirements

- 4 English
- 3 Math
- 3 Science
- 3 Social Studies
- 2 Languages other than English
- 1 Fine Art
- 1 Physical Education
- .5 Professional Communications
- .5 Health
- 4 Electives

Testing Requirements

End-of-Course Exams in:

Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, U.S. History

Endorsement Information

- Similar to a college major
- Requires a minimum of 4 credits in an area
- Can focus on academics, Fine Arts, JROTC, or CTE
- Pathways may vary by campus

Sample Endorsement Pathway Electives

Choir I	Art I	Theatre I	Dance I
Choir II	Drawing II	Theatre II	Dance II
Choir III	Drawing III	Production I	Dance Team III
Choir IV	AP Studio Art	Production II	Dance Team IV

Fine Arts Courses & Your Graduation Plan: Everything You Wanted to Know



Fine Arts Mission: The Fort Bend ISD Department of Fine Arts exists to inspire artistry and equip students to reach their full potential, thus creating opportunities without boundaries.