

Fine Arts at Blair for Freshmen

The Fine Arts Department at Montgomery Blair offers a wide variety of courses to all students in both music and visual art. All students in the state of Maryland need one fine arts credit for graduation but many students take a fine arts course every semester in their high school career. **Blair's fine arts courses are open to all students although, as indicated below, some courses may have prerequisites.** Unless otherwise indicated, all are full year (two semester courses). NOTE: In year-long courses students may NOT take semester 2 without having taken the semester 1 course. For more information about the Fine Arts Department and courses, please visit our website at <http://finearts.mbhs.edu>. For specific questions you may contact Sara Josey, the Fine Arts Resource teacher, at joseysar@mbhs.edu

****Please note that these classes are ones open to freshmen. For a full listing of all our courses check the Fine Arts Department on the Blair website.**

VISUAL ARTS COURSES – There are opportunities for showing work at all levels.

Entry level courses -- grades 9-12 that fulfill the Fine Arts graduation requirement.

- Foundations in Art A & B--(formerly known as Fundamentals of Art)(one-semester course)#6055/6056 Focus is on making two-dimensional art, looking at art from different times and cultures, studying Master Artists and exploring career options. This is a basic overview of processes and media in the visual arts.
- Ceramics and Sculpture1—(#6381/6391) A year-long course in the study of creation of 3-Dimensional sculpture and fine crafts in a variety of media with particular focus on clay.
- Art and Culture (#6454/6455) (one semester course) –Through hands-on projects and other assignments students study the visual designs found in our environment with a focus on cultural influences and social significance. Crafts, decorative arts, environmental designs, design in commerce and industry as well as fine art are analyzed. The role of art in society and the contribution of minority artists are also studied.

Advanced Coursework in Visual Arts - grades 9-12

- Studio 1 #6105/6106 –Focus is on working from observation in 2D materials. Students work with different drawing and painting techniques and materials such as charcoal, graphite, watercolor, and acrylic paint. Freshmen who already have a portfolio may meet with teacher to review their artwork for admittance to this class.





Music Courses

GENERAL MUSIC COURSES (All courses are full year courses. Students may NOT take semester 2 without having taken semester 1.)

- Beginning Guitar A and B (#6585/6586) Focus is on guitar playing basics and music reading. Students can play chords and melodies in a very short time.
- Advanced Guitar A and B (#6591/6592) Focus on advanced guitar techniques and music reading. Class performs as ensemble at concerts and present guitar projects once a semester. **Audition Required.**
- Beginning Piano A and B (#6520/6521) Focus is on piano playing techniques, music reading. Students can play simple songs from the first day in class.
- Advanced Piano A and B (#6535/6536) Focus on advanced piano techniques, music, beginning composition and improvisation. Music history as it influenced keyboard music and composers is studied. **Audition required.**

CHORAL PERFORMANCE COURSES :

- Blazer Choir) #6711/6712
Open to all students who enjoy singing a wide variety of music in concerts, festivals, and on local and extended trips.

NOTE: Choral, piano, and guitar students have the opportunity to perform at two coffeehouses with solos and small groups. Piano students are often chosen to play for special events both in school and in the community. Students must be enrolled in a choral group in order to audition for county and state honors groups.

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE COURSES :

- Concert Band #6821/6822 (grades 9-12) -- open to all students
- String Orchestra #6851/6852 (grades 9-12) – open to all students

SPECIAL NOTE: Freshmen of exceptionally high ability may audition with the instrumental teachers for consideration for the following groups:

- Honors Symphonic Orchestra #6868/6869 (register for String Orchestra and placement will be changed if student meets audition requirements.)
- Symphonic Band #6826/6827 –(register for Concert Band and placements will be changed if student meets audition requirements)
- Jazz Lab Band # 6871/6872 (register for Concert Band and placement will be changed if student meets audition requirements)

All instrumental groups perform at many local venues throughout the school year. Groups perform at county and state festivals and some groups travel on extended trips. **Students are required to be enrolled in a performing group in order to audition for county and state honors groups and to participate in solo and ensemble festival.** All honors students are expected to participate in extra concerts, solo and ensemble festival, and to audition for county and state honors groups. Marching band is open to all students and is an after-school activity.

Teacher e-mail contacts for music questions and auditions:

General music -- Mrs. Josey joseysar@mbhs.edu

Choral/Guitar Performance – Mr. Newport newportp@mbhs.edu

Instrumental Music – Mr. Clark, Daryl_R_Clark@mcpsmd.org

Instrumental Music – Ms. Roberts roberm16@mbhs.edu (concert band, strings, jazz bands, marching band)