

Alma d'arte Course Description Catalogue

Important Information for the Students and Parents of Alma d'arte

The purpose of this catalogue/registration guide is to help you register for classes so the Alma staff can create the best possible instruction in and through the arts and to achieve academic excellence. Your years at Alma are both an end in and of themselves, and a means to prepare for your future. Please consider the arts areas you wish to explore and also your educational destination beyond the Alma experience. As you select courses to take each year, keep in mind the graduation requirements specific to Alma D'Arte Charter High School and from the State of New Mexico Public Education Department. As early as your sophomore year, plan your courses in keeping with admission requirements of post-secondary institutions that you may choose to attend. Discuss your selections with your parents/guardians and seek advice from Alma staff during Platica/Advisory as you complete this process. These people can provide tremendous insight into your course requests as you design your schedule for next year.

Graduation Requirements

Credit Requirements

- English – 4 credits
- Mathematics – 4 credits (including Algebra II)
- Science – 3 credits
- Social Studies – 3.5 credits (NM, World, US, Government)
- Physical Education – 1 credit
- Career/Transitions or Foreign Language – 1 credit
- Health -- .5 credits, high school or middle school (cohort of 2017 and beyond)
- Elective credits – 7.5
- One credit, either required or elective, must be honors, Advanced Placement, dual credit, or on line
- Total Required – 24.5

The total required credits for graduation from Alma d'arte are determined on an individual basis by the Principal. Factors include where and for what duration the student was enrolled, and the credit plans in force at those schools.

Demonstration of Competency

To earn a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence and graduate from Alma d'arte, students must demonstrate competency in five assessed areas. These are:

- Reading
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Various measures of demonstration include the PARCC and SBA test platforms, End of Course examinations in numerous core classes, and alternate means such as ACT, SAT, and COMPASS college admissions examinations. The different means evolves from year to year; current information will be presented to students as such becomes available.

Classes by Area

Academic Classes

English 9, Honors English 9
English 10, Pre AP English 10
English 11, AP English 11
English 12, AP English 12

Algebra I*
Geometry*
Algebra II*
Math IV
Trigonometry
AP Calculus

Physical Science*
Biology*
Chemistry*
Honors Chemistry*

New Mexico History
World History*
US History*
Government and Economics
AP Government

*These classes will be scheduled at an Honors level with sufficient requests

Arts Classes

Artist Within (Introduction to Visual Art)
Drawing and Painting I
Drawing and Painting II
3D Art (Ceramics)
AP Art

Arts Classes, Continued

Dance I
Dance II
Dance Techniques

Chorus
Guitar I
Guitar II
Piano

Behind the Scenes
On Stage and Screen (Intro and Advanced)

Culinary I
Culinary II
Introduction to Culinary

Digital Design

Poetry and Creative Writing
Mythology in Comics

Chinese I
Chinese II

Common Schedules by Grade Level

9th Grade

English 9 or Honors English 9
Algebra I or Geometry
Physical Science
NM History/Health
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Platica

11th Grade

English 11 or AP 11
Algebra II or Trigonometry
Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
US History
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Platica

10th Grade

English 10 or Pre AP 10
Geometry
Biology
World History
Arts Elective
Arts Elective

Arts Elective
Platica

Grade 12

English 12 or AP 12
Math IV or Trigonometry or AP Calc
Government/Economics
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Arts Elective
Platica – Apprenticeship **
Career/Transition Credit

Each student's individual situation is taken into account when creating a course schedule. Special attention must be directed by students and staff to ensuring grade level appropriate courses, prerequisites and sequencing of courses, completion of required NMPED credits, and a meaningful experience in the arts pursuant to accomplishing the Alma mission.

Classification of Students

9th grade – Freshman – student must have been promoted to the 9th grade
10th grade – Sophomore – student must have earned at least six credits
11th grade – Junior – student must have earned 12-14 credits
12th grade – Senior – student must have earned at 18-21 credits

On-Line and Distance Learning Courses; Dual Credit Courses

On line courses are available through IDEAL New Mexico in a variety of subject areas. In nearly all situations, the student/family bears the expense of an IDEAL or other on line class.

A wide variety of dual credit courses are available at both the main campus of New Mexico State University and the Dona Ana Community College. Graduates in the cohort of 2016 must complete one credit in honors, Advanced Placement, on-line or dual credit options. This credit may be a core or an elective class. See the CAO/Principal for more information.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

The Advanced Placement Program is a nationwide program based on the premise that some students can complete college-level courses while still in high school. These classes are the culmination of a sequence of classes that ultimately entail curriculum and assignments on the level of a college freshman class.

Advance Placement courses earn a 0.0344 bonus grade point for each successfully completed credit (.0172 bonus grade point for ½ credit). These bonus points are added directly to the calculated GPA to yield a weighted GPA.

Dropping or Adding Courses

After the semester begins, consideration to add or drop a class will be made in the following circumstances:

- Lack of prerequisite
- Graduation requirement needed
- Inappropriate placement
- Result of a parent conference
- Incomplete student schedule
- Other circumstances, at the discretion of the Principal/Academic Director

** Withdrawing from a class after the 25th day of the semester may result in the recording of “WF” at the discretion of the Principal/Academic Director.

Grade Transfer Policy

When a student transfers from another high school transferred credits and grades shall be transcribed exactly as received. Should the need arise caused by a different state’s or school’s credit granting system, the principal/designee shall convert received grades into appropriate Alma and state graduation requirements. Transcript grades received by Alma are included in the student’s GPA calculation.

The Platica Experience

All students at Alma participate in the Platica Advisory class. This class serves as a time for students, educators, and artists to discuss and review general school and academic information. The Platica structure provides the opportunity for students to develop their personal, social, and academic skills. Students and educators develop long range educational goals through the Next Step plan from the NM PED, and address and plan for post-secondary options. This is a graded class and students are expected to pass this course annually as part of the Alma experience.

Apprenticeship in the Senior Year

Within the Platica format, Alma students participate in an apprenticeship during their final year. This class centers on career readiness, professional workplace skills, and college/post-secondary preparation. The course involves both field work and an apprenticeship panel as requirements for completion. The Senior Platica serves as the Career/Transition credit required on the state level. For students who have met this requirement with other course work, the apprenticeship may be waived by the CAO/Principal, in consideration of individual circumstances and only at his discretion.

Core Classes
Alma d'arte Charter
High School

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

English Language Arts Courses-ELA

English 9

Honors 9

English 10

Pre AP 10

English 11

AP English 11

English 12

AP English 12

Course: English 9

Grade Level: 9

Requirement/Elective: Required

Prerequisite: None

This course uses a thematic curriculum which builds upon the 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. Various genres of literature and art are introduced and defined, with writing exercises linked to reading and viewing selections. Critical thinking and discussion skills are emphasized. Students will be required to master basic computer skills. Students will study Greek and Latin word roots, stems, and prefixes.

Course: Honors English 9

Grade Level: 9

Requirement/Elective: Required

Prerequisite: self selection and placement test

Faster-paced, thematic curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, builds upon the 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. Various genres of literature and art are introduced and defined, with writing exercises linked to reading and viewing selections. Critical analysis and discussion skills are stressed. Students will be required to master basic computer skills. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in peer tutoring. Students will study Greek and Latin word roots, stems, and prefixes.

Course: English 10

Grade Level: 10

Requirement/Elective: Required

Prerequisite: Completion of Language Arts I

This thematic curriculum offers a balanced focus on composition and literature. Students learn about alternate aims and audiences of written compositions by writing persuasive, critical and creative multi-paragraph thematic essays and compositions. The course encompasses various genres as students improve their reading and comprehension and develop skills to interpret texts and identify themes and motifs. Analytical skills are emphasized.

Course: Pre AP English 10
Grade Level: 10
Requirement/Elective: Required in Place of English 10
Prerequisite: English 9

Faster-paced, thematic curriculum offers a balanced focus on composition and literature. Students learn about the alternate aims and audiences of written compositions by writing persuasive, critical, and creative multi-page thematic essays and compositions. Instruction encompasses various genres as students interpret texts and identify themes and motifs. Analytical skills are emphasized. Students will also have the opportunity to engage in peer tutoring. Students registered for Pre AP/Honors Language Arts will read an assigned novel over the summer and will complete a written assignment related to the reading. Students will study Greek and Latin word roots, stems, and prefixes. Students will learn to write using APA style, and develop effective research skills.

Course: English 11
Grade Level: 11
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: Completion of English 9 and 10

English Language Arts 11 focuses on the study of American Literature spanning from the pre-colonial period to the late 20th century. Students will read works of American literature, ranging from poetry, short story, and novel to essays, biographies, and plays. These reading will often form the backbone of writing assignments. Following the writing process, students will learn to produce final, error-free drafts by editing papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of conventions and mechanics of written English. An emphasis will be placed on rhetoric, argumentative analysis, synthesis research and personal writing, including the personal narrative and essay.

Course: English 12
Grade Level: 12
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: Completion of English 9, 10, and 11

English Language Arts 12 fosters students in developing a world perspective by analyzing classic and contemporary texts from around the world. Students will examine how authors from different cultures and eras approach universal questions such as how does culture influence our values, attitudes, and behaviors? What are my responsibilities to myself and to others? Through close reading, discussions, and writings about literature and nonfiction, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. They consider the social and historical values the text embodies. Students examine sophisticated texts containing demanding, highly context dependent vocabulary. They refine the knowledge, skills, and strategies acquired in prior academic study and prepare for leading productive lives as responsible members of the community.

Course: AP English ELA 11 (Language and Composition)

Grade Level: 11

Requirement/Elective: Requirement in Place of English 11 or 12

Prerequisite: Pre AP 10 and/or teacher recommendation; self selection

This course, designed to parallel a college-level composition course, is aligned with the following College Board objectives: Students will analyze and interpret samples of purposeful writing, analyze images and other multimodal texts for rhetorical features, recognize and use effective rhetorical strategies and techniques when composing, write for a variety of purposes, create and sustain original arguments based on information synthesized from readings, research, and/or personal observation and experience, and draft, revise, and edit their writing. This course prepares students for the optional Advanced Placement Language and Composition exam.

Course: AP English 12 (Literature and Composition)

Grade Level: 12

Requirement/Elective: Requirement in Place of English 11 or 12

Prerequisite: teacher recommendation and/or self-selection

In this course, designed to parallel college-level English courses, students will develop critical standards for the interpretation and the evaluation of literature, read widely from various genres and periods, study the language, character, action, and theme in works of recognized literary merit, and enrich their understanding of rhetorical purpose and strategy. Writing assignments will focus on the understanding and critical analysis of literature, as well as the development of the writer's stylistic maturity. This course prepares students for the optional Advanced Placement Exam Literature and Composition exam.

Mathematics Courses

Students entering high school in the fall of 2009 or later are required to take four credits of mathematics. The Math Department at Alma integrates the College Preparatory Mathematics Program into all instruction. This program incorporates an extensive online component that requires students to do some course work, research and referencing on the Internet.

Algebra I*
Geometry*
Algebra II*
Math IV
Pre Calculus & Trigonometry
Advanced Placement-AP Calculus AB

Course: Algebra I
Grade Level: 9
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: None

This course includes the study of properties and operations of the real number system; evaluating rational algebraic expressions; solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities; translating word problems into equations; operations with and factoring of polynomials; and solving simple quadratic equations. Review topics include: ratio and proportion, operations with sets, simplifying radical expressions, operations with exponents, and solution of simple linear equations. Enhancement topics: field properties and theorems, set theory, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, and solving and graphing more complex quadratic equations. Projects will include concept problems (application) that incorporate art.

Course: Geometry
Grade Level: 10
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course emphasizes an abstract, formal approach to the study of geometry; include topics such as properties of plane and solid figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; including coordinate geometry, and transformational geometry. Review topics: basic measurement, perimeter, area, and volume, and inductive methods of reasoning.

Course: Algebra II
Grade Level: 10-11
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry

Course topics include field properties and theorems; set theory; operations with rational and

irrational expressions; factoring of rational expressions; in-depth study of linear equations and inequalities; quadratic equations; solving systems of linear and quadratic equations; graphing of constant, linear, and quadratic equations; properties of higher degree equations; and operations with rational and irrational exponents. Review topics: operations involving real numbers, evaluating rational algebraic expressions, solving and graphing first degree equations and inequalities, operations with and factoring of polynomials, and solving simple quadratics. Enhancement topics: use of quadratics in structural integrity and business; practical applications of conic sections; use of probability and statistics in everyday situations; and research in careers that utilize advanced mathematics (e.g. architecture, engineering, data analysis, financial, forensics and other scientific fields).

Course: Math IV

Grade Level: 11-12

Requirement/Elective: Requirement

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II

This course meets the required fourth math credit for students graduating in 2013 and beyond. It is an extension of Algebra II and is recommended for students pursuing a two-year degree or entering the world of work directly after high school. The class is not recommended for students entering a four-year degree program. This course is of a higher level than Algebra II. Math IV will prepare students for entry into calculus, and includes the study of relations and functions; including polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, rational, right trigonometric, and circular functions, and their inverses, graphs, and applications. Review topics for this course include structure of the real number system. Enhancement topics include statistical and probability functions.

Course: Trigonometry/Pre Calculus

Grade Level: 11-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective or math credit

Prerequisite: Algebra II, possible teacher approval

This course is a study of right triangles and circular functions. Topics will include special right triangles, degrees and radian measure, and the application of right triangles in real life situations. All six trigonometric functions will be learned and used throughout the course. The student will also learn to graph the six trig functions.

Course combines the study of Trigonometry, Elementary Functions, Analytic Geometry, and Math Analysis topics as preparation for calculus. Topics include the study of complex numbers; polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, rational, right trigonometric, and circular functions, and their relations, inverses and graphs; trigonometric identities and equations; solutions of right and oblique triangles; areas under triangles, and basic differentiation.

Course: AP Calculus AB

Grade Level: 11-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: Students will be identified specifically through standardized test results and teacher recommendation. Students must have a 3.0 or higher in Algebra II.

AP Calculus AB provides students with an intuitive understanding of the concepts of calculus and experience with its methods and applications. These courses introduce calculus and include the following topics: elementary functions; properties of functions and their graphs; limits and continuity; differential calculus (including definition of the derivative, derivative formulas, theorems about derivatives, geometric applications, optimization problems, and rate-of-change problems); and integral calculus (including anti-derivatives and the definite integral). This course is intended to prepare students for the optional Advanced Placement Exam in this subject and will follow the published College Board guidelines.

*Classes may be offered at an honors level with sufficient requests

Science Courses

Students must complete three credits in science, two of which must be lab sciences. All science classes at Alma d'arte qualify as lab sciences.

Physical Science
Health Science
Biology
Honors Biology
Chemistry
Honors Chemistry

Course: Physical Science
Grade Level: 9
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: None

Physical Science is an introductory course covering the fundamental principles of physics and chemistry. Topics include general science skills (measurement, graphing, and the scientific method); and lab safety and equipment. In chemistry, topics include the structure and properties of matter, the periodic table, elements and compounds, and chemical reactions. In physics, mechanics, energy, and waves are covered. Arts integration projects such as the Atomic Timeline Project provide opportunities for the students to create a product that combines their science and art skills and knowledge. The course culminates in an Energy Resource Project in which students research, describe, and evaluate energy resources and consider environmental and ethical implications.

Course: Health Science
Grade Level: 9
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: None

Health Education - required for Students Grades 9 – 12 entering in the Fall of 2012 – this course provides knowledge and skills practice in a variety of health topics including the six CDC health risk behaviors, and is aligned with the 9-12 PED Health Education content standards with benchmarks and performance standards. This course will meet the graduation requirement for Health Education. **At Alma, this class is completed with the on-line IDEAL-NM class.**

Course: Biology
Grade Level: 10
Requirement/Elective: Required
Prerequisite: None

Course is designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. Critical thinking and problem solving are emphasized in course work focusing on evolution, diversity genetics, ecological relationships, and uses of biological technologies in

society. Activities are designed to acquaint students with processes of science, such as experimental design and data interpretations. Extensive inquiry-based laboratory work is required. Students will research various topics and present their findings in oral and written form during the school year. Course will utilize art extensively via projects such as: 3-D models and biomes; mobiles; and power point presentations.

Course: Honors Biology

Grade Level: 10

Requirement/Elective: Required Replacing Biology

Prerequisite: 3.0 in honors physical science and/or teacher recommendation

Course is typically offered (but not restricted) to students who have mastered the concepts covered in first year biology courses. These courses examine biological systems in more detail, concentrating on a particular subtopic (such as botany, zoology, microbiology, genetics, and so on). These concepts are often studied on a college level.

Course: Chemistry

Grade Level: 11

Requirement/Elective: Required

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physical Science and Algebra I

This course involves the study of the composition, properties, and structure of matter. Topics include the classification of matter, the behavior of solids, liquids, and gases; atomic structure; chemical bonding; chemical formulas and equations; and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to teach safety procedures, the use of lab equipment, and various experimental techniques. Math is applied in the measurement and calculation of chemical quantities. Arts integration projects such as the Element Project provide opportunities for the students to create a product that combines their science and art skills and knowledge. This course is designed to develop scientifically literate citizens through an understanding of the methods of science and the role of chemistry in society and everyday life. Chemistry requires motivation, attention to detail, effort, study time, and responsibility.

Course: Honors Chemistry

Grade Level: 11-12

Requirement/Elective: Requirement in place of Chemistry

Prerequisite: Physical Science and Algebra I

Honors chemistry is a fast-paced, in-depth course covering the Chemistry content as well as additional topics in quantum chemistry, bonding theory, acid/base and oxidation/reduction reactions, stoichiometry, and nuclear chemistry. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to teach safety procedures, the use of lab equipment, and various experimental techniques. Math is applied in the measurement and calculation of chemical quantities. Arts integration projects such as the Element Project provide opportunities for the students to create a product that combines their science and art skills and knowledge. This course is designed to develop scientifically literate citizens through an understanding of the methods of science and the role of chemistry in society and everyday life. Honors Chemistry is a rigorous course requiring motivation, attention to detail, effort, study time, and responsibility.

Social Studies Courses

All students must enroll in New Mexico History, World History, US History, and Government through the course of their high school career.

**New Mexico History
Global History and Geography
Honors Global History
US History
Government and Economics
AP Government/Economics**

**Course: New Mexico History
Grade Level: 9
Requirement/Elective: Required
Prerequisite: None**

New Mexico History is a course that will give you the opportunity to learn the “story” of New Mexico! This course builds on what you learned in your middle school New Mexico History class. It will extend your knowledge of the geographical, cultural, economic and political history of New Mexico. You will examine the role that New Mexico plays in the national and international arenas. By the end of the course, you will have an understanding of how people and events have influenced the development of New Mexico up to the present day.

**Course: Global History
Grade Level: 10
Requirement/Elective: None
Prerequisite: None**

This 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.

**Course: Honors Global History
Grade Level: 10
Requirement/Elective: None
Prerequisite: None**

This course covers the major eras and important turning points in world history from the Renaissance to the present. Included within the course is world geography to support geographical concepts as they relate to the understanding of the changes throughout the world. In addition, special attention will be paid to artists’ role in the making of history. Students will also create artworks from the four art forms (performance, visual, literary and culinary).

Course: U.S History
Grade Level: 11
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: None

This course examines the history of the United States of America through thematic units that cover Reconstruction history through the present time. Before any text is read or lectures are given, students will share their understanding of the content and work with the instructor to develop the themes to be studied.

Course: Honors U.S History
Grade Level: 11
Requirement/Elective: Requirement
Prerequisite: None

This course examines the history of the United States of America through thematic units that cover Reconstruction history through the present time. Before any text is read or lectures are given, students will share their understanding of the content and work with the instructor to develop the themes to be studied. Students are also expected to develop essential questions and identify primary source documents that correspond to the questions they develop.

Course: Government and Economics
Grade Level: 12
Requirement/Elective: Required
Prerequisite: None

This course provides an understanding of the ideals, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship and the content and history of the founding documents of the United States including the New Mexico and United States Constitutions and how governments function at the local, state, tribal, and national levels. In addition, 9-12 Social Studies Benchmarks and Performance Standards (History, Civics, and Government, Economics and Geography) should be included as appropriate to the course.

Course: AP US Government
Grade Level: 12
Requirement/Elective: Elective/ Required
Prerequisite: None

This course will give students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. *Politics Matters* is the core message of this course. To that end, this course provides an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with an emphasis on policy making and implementation. This is a college level course, and as such is rigorous and demanding. This course requires that students fully engage with the material and discussion on a daily basis, both inside and outside of class.

Arts Classes Alma d'arte High School

Visual Arts

Performing Arts

Culinary Arts

Literary Arts

New Media Arts

Visual Arts Courses

Artist Within
3D Concepts (Ceramics)
Printmaking
Drawing and Painting 1
Drawing and Painting 2
AP Art

The Artist Within
Grade: 9th/10th
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: none

The Artist Within is a basic visual arts foundation course. This intensive studio class focuses on how to use the elements and principles of design in the development of personal visual art solutions to basic design problems. A wide variation of mediums and ways of creating will be taught. Basic visual art vocabulary, critique techniques, composition and perspective will also be taught. This class is a required prerequisite course for all visual art majors and any student wanting to take any further visual arts classes such as Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Ceramics, and AP Art

Three Dimensional Concepts: Mixed Media (1 Semester)
Grade: 10 and 11
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: Artist Within ("C" or better), or consent of instructor.

This course will introduce you to the theories and techniques of creating objects in three dimensions. You will become familiar with the vocabulary used to describe, critique and understand three dimensional objects and begin to recognize all elements of design as they appear everywhere in the physical world. Through the application of the principles of design you will learn to manipulate and organize these formal elements into dynamic and meaningful compositions. The exploration of different fabrication techniques, connective systems, materials and readings will help you develop a personal vocabulary and repertoire of skills that you will be able to access when creating your work. The skills and knowledge you acquire will serve as a foundation for future studies.

Three Dimensional Concepts: Ceramics (1 Semester)

Grade: 10 and 11

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: Artist Within ("C" or better), or consent of instructor.

Beginning Ceramics

This course is an introduction to three dimensional form and design concepts using ceramic materials and processes. The projects investigate three dimensions through a study of form, space, color and light, texture, composition, and structure. Students utilize low fire technology, hand forming techniques, an introduction to glazing, and electric kiln firing processes to support the development and understanding of 3D fundamentals.

Intermediate Ceramics

This course investigates the intermediate level of technical, conceptual and aesthetic issues involved with sculpting using ceramic materials. Students will learn to use sculptural form to convey ideas based on contemporary culture. Projects focus on the use of low-fire materials, image development and low fired glaze application to enhance sculpture.

Prerequisites: Beginning Ceramics ("C" or better), or consent of instructor.

Advanced Ceramics

Focuses on advanced technical and creative concepts with emphasis on developing personal work and professional practices preparation.

Prerequisites: Intermediate Ceramics ("C" or better), or consent of instructor.

Printmaking

Grade: 9th-12th

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: The Artist Within

This introductory Printmaking class is for the visual art student that has successfully passed the **Artist Within** class. Printmaking exposes the student to the many basic tools and methods of printmaking. The elements and principles of design will continue to be reinforced through the individual processes of creating multiple prints. Prints are impressions made from a master block or plate. Processes may include: woodblock, linocut, mono-printing, serigraphy, and various intaglio methods such as dry point and etching. Individual creativity and the development of individual style will be encouraged.

Drawing & Painting 1

Grade 10th – 12th

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: The Artist Within

This is an intensive visual arts class for the serious students pursuing visual arts. This class builds on the elements and principles of design through drawing and painting projects. The class will include a broad set of approaches to drawing and painting. The focus of the first 9 weeks will be on learning how to slow down and draw realistically from observation, with the second 9 weeks dealing with the numerous techniques of abstraction. Different wet and dry mediums will be explored such as graphite, charcoal, ink, pastel, acrylic and gouache. Class critiques will be held after major assignments.

Drawing & Painting 2**Grade 10th – 12th****Requirement/Elective: Elective****Prerequisite: The Artist Within, Drawing & Painting 1**

Drawing and Painting 2 is an intermediate studio class that focuses deeply on painting processes and techniques. Students will explore personal visual art making processes through gouache and non-traditional painting mediums before investigating oil painting. The elements and principles of design will be reinforced through studio assignments that focus on building drawing and painting skills while reinforcing personal ways of creating. Oil painting will be the central focus as students paint on paper, wood panels, canvas board, and stretched canvases. Color use will be a common element engaged throughout the semester. This class demands dedication and perseverance, and is a great class to take before entering the AP Studio Art program in the Junior or Senior year.

AP Studio Art: Breadth**Grades: 11th – 12th****Requirement/Elective: Elective****Prerequisite: The Artist Within, and a minimum of one additional studio class such as Figure Drawing, Printmaking, Drawing & Painting 1, etc.**

The AP Studio Art program is an advanced art making class that allows highly motivated and creative students to earn possible college credit while still in high school. Students will create 12 college level artworks designed by the instructor. The course is demanding and will take a commitment to work outside of class as well as in the Alma studios. The project work will help build a breadth section of the student portfolio that shall exhibit variation in processes and maturing skill. Students will create very realistic work as well as abstract work. Please see an art instructor for more details prior to enrolling in this wonderful class.

AP Studio Art: Concentration**Grades: 11th – 12th****Requirement/Elective: Elective****Prerequisite: The Artist Within, Figure Drawing or Printmaking or Drawing & Painting, and AP Studio Art: Breadth**

This intensive course is a college level studio class that allows the student to create more independently while having the studio resources and mentoring of a qualified educator. Each student will create a specific artist's statement, and then create 12 sophisticated artworks that are about this statement. Each art work will demonstrate the student's knowledge of the elements and principles of design, and use of the student's chosen media. All 12 pieces will be rooted in the specific theme designed by the student artist. This class demands a minimum of 4 -8 hours of outside of class (art homework) dedication in order to complete all 12 pieces. Please see an instructor prior to enrolling for more information.

Performing Arts Courses

Dance I

Dance II

Dance Techniques

Choir

Piano

Guitar I

Guitar II & III

**** See below for Theater classes**

Course: Dance I

Grade: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Meets Physical Education Requirement

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introduction of the vocabulary and techniques of Classical Ballet, Flamenco, Classical Spanish Dance, and Conditioning for Dancers. Students will learn a minimum of two pieces of choreography. Extensive practice of fundamental dance skills is a major part of this class. Performance is required.

Course: Dance II

Grade: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Meets Physical Education Requirement

Prerequisite: Dance I and/or instructor approval

This course is a review and further exploration of the vocabulary and techniques of Flamenco and Spanish Dance, training also in Classical Ballet and Conditioning for dancers, as support systems. Students will learn a minimum of three pieces of choreography, and should anticipate the high level of fitness required for the successful completion of this class. Performance is required.

Course: Dance Techniques

Grade: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Meets Physical Education Requirement

Prerequisite: None

This course is an exploration on the techniques and vocabulary of Jazz Dance, Flamenco and Spanish Dance, Classical Ballet, and Conditioning for Dancers (stretch and strength). Extensive practice of fundamental dance skills is a major part of this class. Performance is not required but encouraged

Course: Chorus
Grade Level: 9-12
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: None

This course provides the opportunity to sing a variety of choral literature styles for men and/or women's voices, and is designed to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts. Secondary focus is upon learning to read and understand music notation. Fall semester includes solo and ensemble and All State auditions. Participation in Showcase performances is required and graded as part of the semester and final examinations

Course: Piano
Grade Level: 9-12
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: None

This course introduces the student to the piano keyboard. Focus is upon rapidly gaining technical ability to play five-finger scales and chords in all keys. Secondary focus is upon learning to read and understand music notation. Students will be able to read and perform basic piano literature Level I-II by the end of 2 semesters.

Course: Guitar I
Grade Level: 9-12
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for beginning guitar students and is taught in the Classical style. The course will cover fingerboard knowledge, basic techniques, chords, strumming, the basics of finger-style technique, and reading music notation and guitar tablature. Basic concepts in music theory are also addressed. Students will learn solo and ensemble repertoire. Performances are required as a key component of assessment. Most of the music played in this class will be drawn from Classical and Neo-Classical literature. Participation in Showcase performances is required and graded as part of the semester and final examinations

Course: Guitar II&III
Grade Level: 10-12
Requirement/Elective: Elective
Prerequisite: Guitar I and Permission from the instructor. Option: Audition

This course is designed for more advanced guitar students and is taught in the Classical style. The main goal of this course is to perform publicly as often as possible at a high level of excellence. The course will cover advanced position and fingerboard knowledge, special techniques, complex chords, flamenco strumming, basic improvisation, advanced finger pattern technique, reading music (standard notation/tabature), and applied music theory. Most of the music played in this class will be drawn from Modern Classical and Neo-Classical literature. Students are expected to audition for NMMEA All State, and be available for all performances. Participation in Showcase performances is required and graded as part of the semester and final examinations

Culinary Arts Classes

Introduction to Culinary Arts

Culinary Arts I

Culinary Arts II

Course: Intro to Culinary Arts

Grade Level: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: None

Course provides students with an understanding of the role food plays in society, instruction in how to plan and prepare meals, experience in the proper use of equipment and utensils, and a background of the nutritional needs and requirements for healthy living. Course is designed to introduce food safety and sanitation protocols, food handling procedures, measuring techniques, basic baking, and basic catering practices. This course is a prerequisite for more advanced Culinary Arts courses.

Course: Culinary Arts I

Grade Level: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: Intro to Culinary Arts

Students in this fast-paced course will be expected to maintain an extremely professional environment. As a culinary team, students will be responsible for the school's daily food production and service; creating monthly menus; ordering supplies; establishing standardized recipes; keeping an accurate inventory; analyzing food costs; implementing food safety protocols; cleaning and maintaining equipment; and catering special events.

Course: Culinary Arts II

Grade Level: 10-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: Intro to Culinary Arts or Culinary I

Students in this fast-paced course will be expected to maintain an extremely professional environment. This course concentrates on budgeting, keeping an accurate inventory, and menu development. Additionally, students will be responsible for the school's daily food production and service; ordering supplies; establishing standardized recipes; analyzing food costs; implementing food safety protocols; cleaning and maintaining equipment; and catering special events.

Literary Arts

Course: Mythology and Comics

Grade level: 9-12

Requirement: Elective

Pre-requisite: None

Course offers interested students the opportunity to study and reflect upon mythology and its impact on today's sequential art (comics). The class will explore Greek, Norse, Japanese, and Chinese mythologies and how they influence modern comic writers and their stories. Students will read various comics such as Wonder Woman, Thor, The Sandman, etc. Students will be required to read and take extensive notes, and study character development, theme, and the historical context of each myth and its related comic. At the completion of the course students will have developed and created several super heroes, a mythological world, and an original comic based on a myth of their choosing.

Course: Creative Writing

Grade Level: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: None

The purpose of this course is to expose students to different forms of creative writing and provide them with the skills, opportunity and environment to express themselves creatively through writing. This class will be an introduction to creative writing. Many writing forms will be covered including fiction writing, poetry, screenwriting and playwriting. Students will learn about these forms and analyze the work of published writers and experiment with writing. Class activities and assignments will include writing exercises, reading assignments, written responses to published and peer work, in-class readings of plays/screenplays, in-class discussions, workshop of peer and published work as well as the exploration of creative writing and story ideas through visual art.

Course: Poetry

Grade Level: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: None

Students will learn to apply the elements of poetry; develop an appreciation for the language of poetry, become familiar with poets from various backgrounds and beliefs. Guest poets will be invited to give readings and workshops in class. Course may be artistically and topically linked to the Border Book Festival and the NMSU guest authors series. Selected student works will be published in creative writing venues at Alma. Offered every other Spring Semester, e.g. 2012, 2014, 2016.

New Media Arts

Behind the Scenes On Stage and Screen Digital Design

Course: Behind The Scenes
Emphasis on film analysis, storytelling, script writing, filmmaking
Grade Level: 9-12
Elective
Prerequisite: None

Students will examine the possibilities of storytelling through the reading of scripts and screening of films. They will reflect on how meaning is constructed and conveyed; they will develop an analytical vocabulary as well as an understanding of key historical and critical concepts regarding theatre and film. Students will study techniques of story structure, principles of drama, character and emotion, dialogue, and other creative approaches for screenwriters and dramatists. As writers, students will give actors voice through their words. They will originate storylines, and explore impactful themes. Students will demonstrate the ability to use technology to enhance story as it grows from the written word to a finished, visual story. From cinematography, writing, designing, and editing, this class takes the students through the production process.

Course: On Stage and Screen
Emphasis on acting, narrating, reporting, interviewing; scripted and non-scripted/improvisational materials
Grade Level: 9-12
Elective
Prerequisite: None

Through lecture and workshop, students will begin to develop the craft to create strong performances for the stage and on camera. Students will develop their acting skills through improvisation, study of monologue materials, and interpretation of dramatic scripts. Students will engage in numerous activities that provide building blocks to successful scene work: learn how to initiate spontaneous scenes, build upon a scene partners' offers, and create scenes with a solid foundation through acting exercises. Voice exercises will help students develop breathing techniques, tone production, and vocal flexibility. Movement exercises will help students overcome their inhibitions and to develop character through the use of the body. Upon mastering the fundamentals of acting, students will work collaboratively to stage class and contemporary scripts performing for their peers and the general public.

Students will also learn the fundamentals of camera awareness and blocking. Students will practice techniques for hitting marks and for employing various camera shots. Focus is also placed on creating camera magnetism by encouraging spontaneous behavior and developing the actor's ability to find the character in him/herself.

Course Title: Digital Design
Emphasis on digitally produced design for web and print
Grade Level: 9-12
Elective
Prerequisite: None

“A graphic designer is a communicator: someone who takes ideas and gives them visual form so that others can understand them.” —Timothy Samara

This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop a basic understanding of digital reproduction techniques as they relate to the production of graphic visual communication. Students will complete various exercises incorporating the basic elements and principles of design, from initial choice of topic through working stages to finished presentation. They will learn fundamental technical skills and production procedures. They will also develop conceptual skills necessary for preparing graphic visual communication. Students will be expected to participate in creative problem-solving as they strengthen their awareness and sensitivity to our relationship to the world around us. Students will better understand how the designer uses imagery, symbols, type, and color, to represent ideas and organizes them into a unified message in order to evoke a particular response. Students will identify, analyze and create various forms of graphic art. Students will create a variety of digital and printed media that may include event advertising, sales, identification, invitations, informational ads, cover art, e-news, blogs, etc.

Students will be introduced to digital photography, gaining competence with digital camera, lighting, software, and publishing tools. They will explore the fundamentals of Adobe Creative Cloud (CC)—focusing chiefly on Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Dreamweaver—to digitally manipulate photographic images, create vector artwork, generate multi-page layouts, and use XHTML, and CSS to publish Web pages.

Foreign Languages

Neither the State of New Mexico nor Alma d'arte Charter High School has a foreign language graduation requirement. However, some students may wish to pursue credits in this area. On a budget-available basis, students may garner foreign language credits in the IDEAL-New Mexico on-line classes program, or via dual credit classes offered at the NMSU Main Campus or the Dona Ana Community College. In partnership with NMSU and the Confucius Institute we offer Chinese I and II.

Course: Chinese I

Grade: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to the basic skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing -and to the basic structures of Chinese taught within the cultural context. Emphasis will be placed on oral communication skills. A career awareness component is included which emphasizes the importance of Chinese in the world.

Course: Chinese II

Grade: 9-12

Requirement/Elective: Elective

Prerequisite: Chinese I

This course continues to develop communicative skills. There is greater use of Chinese in the classroom. Emphasis is on sustained communication, both oral and written. An appreciation of the culture of Chinese speaking countries is enhanced.