VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

The Visual and Performing Arts program at Milton Hershey School is part of a comprehensive, balanced education that prepares students for college, career, and life.

All students in pre-K through 12th grade participate in VPA, engaging in hands-on instruction across visual art, music, dance, and drama. As students grow, their opportunities expand—allowing them to explore interests, refine talents, and perform with confidence.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION AT EVERY STAGE

Students are introduced to the arts early and continue developing their skills throughout each division.

- Elementary Division students take weekly classes in art and music, and have opportunities in dance, building foundational skills and creative confidence.
- Middle Division students complete marking periods in art and music, and have opportunities in dance, while expanding their technique and performance experience.
- Senior Division students complete at least one year in a visual or performing arts course of their choice, with opportunities to pursue advanced study.

Students in Senior Division may take Advanced Placement courses in Visual Art, preparing them for collegiate-level expectations and deeper artistic exploration.

Across all grades, students are encouraged to experiment, take creative risks, and grow through performance, critique, and collaboration.





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Students at MHS engage in a wide range of visual and performing arts experiences across every grade level. From foundation instruction to advanced performance groups, the VPA program offers opportunities for students to find what is most exciting to them and then grow their skills.

VISUAL ARTS

- Drawing, painting, sculpture, and traditional studio art
- Photography
- Video production
- Art Media program
- Clyde Stacks Art Museum volunteer opportunities
- Area museum field trips
- National Art Honor Society
- Scholastic Art & Writing Competition

INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL MUSIC

- Brass Ensemble
- Concert, jazz, and marching bands
- Fourth grade band
- Individual and small-group lessons (strings, guitar)
- Elementary, middle, and varsity choirs
- Gospel Choir
- New Horizons Show Choir
- Pep Band
- Spartan Indoor Percussion
- Color Guard

DANCE & DRAMA

- Musical and play productions
- Stage production and management
- Ballet, jazz, tap, and additional dance programs
- Poetry Out Loud

A comprehensive list of offerings by division and grade level is available on the back of this sheet.

The following overview outlines curriculum and activity offerings by division. Opportunities evolve as students grow, with increasing specialization and performance experience.



Elementary Division (Grades 2–4)

- Art Club
- Choir
- Concert Band
- Dance
- Stage Crew

Middle Division (Grades 5–8)

- Art Club
- Choir / Select Choir
- Concert & Jazz Band
- Dance
- Drama
- Gospel Choir
- Guitar Lessons
- Musical
- Scholastic Art & Writing Competition
- Strings Program
- Stage Crew





Senior Division (Grades 9–12)

- Art Club
- Art Media
- Brass Ensemble
- Choir
- Color Guard
- Concert / Marching Band
- Dance
- Gospel Choir
- Guitar / Guitar Ensemble
- Modern Band
- Musical / Play
- National Art Honor Society
- New Horizons Show Choir
- Photography
- Poetry Out Loud
- Pottery Club
- Spartan Indoor Percussion
- Spartan Pep Band
- Stage Crew
- Strings / String Ensemble

Activity offerings are subject to change. Certain programs are available to specific grade levels.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION WITH PURPOSE

With expert instruction, diverse performance opportunities, and advanced coursework available, students leave MHS not only with artistic skills—but with poise, resilience, and the ability to express themselves with clarity.

Because all costs are covered, every student has access to instruments, materials, equipment, and lessons without financial barriers.

At MHS, the arts are not an add-on. They are a meaningful part of helping students grow into capable, confident young adults.

LEARN MORE ABOUT Visual & Performing Arts

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT CENTER
mhskids.org/FirstStep | 717-647-5050