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DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

THE SCHOOL

Denzel Washington School of the Arts, formerly known as the **Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program**, was founded in 2015 for children with a passion and talent for the performing and visual arts. Its enrollment includes grades 6 – 12. The students audition in 5th grade (*and other grades if seats are available*) in one of the arts disciplines: including dance, visual arts, theatre, and instrumental/vocal music. The program will celebrate its first graduating class in 2021. This theme-based performing and visual arts secondary school is opened to students residing in Mount Vernon. The mission of the **Denzel Washington School of the Arts** is to create a focused and high performing culture that prepares students for success in college and conservatories by nurturing their passion and interest in the arts through a rigorous curriculum that integrates a sequence in the arts. The Denzel Washington School of the Arts will assist each student with discovering and nurturing their unique talent while utilizing an arts framework to support success in academic classes. Students will transfer their creative skills to the classroom and build their cognitive framework and affect mindset to become strong readers, mathematicians, thinkers, and learners.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Denzel Washington School of the Arts is an award-winning school having won awards in theatre (Metro Awards), orchestra (Grand Prize – Orlando Music Festival), and numerous 1st place medals in the New York State School Music Association Festival (NYSSMA). Theatrical productions have consistently made the front page on newspapers; students have performed with the Dance Theatre of Harlem and the Harlem School of the Arts; and the visual art student artwork has been featured in national and local galleries. Students also participate in three theatrical productions each year; and are assessed in the arts via winter and spring showcases and arts juries held twice a year. The school presented *The Lion King, Jr.* and had an audience of over 4000 patrons throughout the run. All students are provided the opportunity to participate in a number of other extra-curricular activities including: the National Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society, Language Honor Society, Explorer's Club, Yearbook, Robotics Team, Ethics Team, and the newly added boxing club. In addition, the students also participate in Junior Varsity and Varsity sports with The Mount Vernon High School sports program, and in basketball (boys) and volleyball (girls) in the middle school division. Students study at Juilliard, Fordham, Columbia, Concordia Conservatory, and Monroe College

CURRICULUM

Over 50 courses in a variety of areas are offered. An honors program is offered in English and social studies in grades 9 and 10. Advanced Placement courses are offered in English Literature & Composition, English Language, United States History, United States Government & Politics, World History, Calculus AB, Biology, Music Theory, 2-D Art Design, and Spanish Language. The students follow a prescribed sequence in the arts beginning in grade 6 and continuing through 12th grade. The sequence in the arts adheres to the National Arts Standards. All academic classes incorporate an arts integration approach.



THE COMMUNITY

Mount Vernon is a city of approximately 68,000 people located in Westchester County and adjacent to New York City. Primarily a residential suburb, the city has some light industry and a well-developed business section. The Mount Vernon City School District celebrates diversity and is committed to providing a quality and nurturing educational program that recognizes the uniqueness of all students and allows them to reach their potential.

THE DENZEL WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS DIFFERENCE

The objective of the Denzel Washington School of the Arts is to provide an educational experience for children passionate about an art discipline. We utilize this passion as a gateway for preparation in college or conservatory training. We recognize that some of our students will pursue the arts and enter professional careers in the arts - continuing Mount Vernon's legacy of creating professional artists.



NYS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:		Denzel Washington School of the Arts	
COURSES	Units	COURSES	Units
English	4	English	4
Social Studies	4	Social Studies	4
Mathematics	3	Mathematics	3
Science	3	Science	3
Foreign Language	1	Foreign Language	1
Art or Music	1	Art, Music, Dance or	4
Health	0.5	Health	0.5
Physical Education	2	Physical Education	2
Electives	3.5	Electives	0.5
Total	22	Total	22

EXAMINATIONS:	ADVANCED REGENTS DIPLOMA (additional examinations needed):
NYS Comprehensive Regents in English	NYS Regents in Mathematics (Geometry, Alg. 2)
NYS Regents in Mathematics	NYS Regents in Science
NYS Regents in Global Studies	Local Exam in Foreign Language
NYS Regents in U.S. History	
NYS Regents in Science	

GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK

Numeric marks are used. The minimum passing mark is 65. The marks NM (no mark) and NC (no credit) receive no credit. The mark MD (medical excuse) is used in physical education and receives full credit. Advanced Placement and Honors courses are weighted. Weight is determined according to the level of difficulty of the course.

COURSE WEIGHTING

(AP) Advanced Placement	1.10
(H) Honors	1.05
(R) Regents	1.0
All other courses receive a weight of 1.0	

100	4.0	81	2.6
99	3.95	80	2.5
98	3.94	79	2.4
97	3.93	78	2.3
96	3.92	77	2.2
95	3.91	76	2.1
94	3.9	75	2.0
93	3.8	74	1.9
92	3.7	73	1.8
91	3.6	72	1.7
90	3.5	71	1.6
89	3.4	70	1.5
88	3.3	69	1.4
87	3.2	68	1.3
86	3.1	67	1.2
85	3.0	66	1.1
84	2.9	65	1.0
83	2.8	64-50	0.0

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

National Honor Society
Tau Epsilon Pi
 G.P.A. of 85 for grade 9; G.P.A of 90 for grades 10 & 11 grade G.P.A. of 85 for every year
Academic Honors
 G.P.A of 88 or higher with no more than one failure during 10, 11 or 12

It is the policy of the Board of Education that Mount Vernon STEAM Academy does not rank students.

CLASS OF 2020 POST-SECONDARY PLANS

Number of Graduates/ Post Graduate Statistics:

- 94.6% of the Class of 2020 is attending four and two-year colleges and universities
- 1.5% enlisted in the military
- 3.9% entered the workforce, or enrolled in trade or other postsecondary institution

