

Daniel Hand High School

2026 - 2027 Program of Studies

Overview of Changes

Graduation Requirement Course Update

- ❖ Independent Project
- ❖ Personal Finance

Department Specific Updates

- ❖ Art Department
- ❖ Mathematics Department
- ❖ Science Department
- ❖ World Language Department



Graduation Requirement Course Update

Independent Project & Personal Finance

Offered to Grades 11 & 12 only



Art Department Update

Revised Department Overview

Art is essential! The Art Department in Madison encourages and cultivates a unique sense of creativity in every student. Offering a wide variety of curricular pathways and experiences, each student can access their desired materials and methods while also developing a breadth of creative and technical skills from the traditional to the digital and commercial. We seek to create confident and curious minds prepared to craft the future of their dreams with passionate, fearless originality.

Many classes are beginner friendly; come discover your voice and creative outlet! Our growth-based approach ensures that each student is met at their skill level and receives personalized and specific feedback to help them develop as artists. We encourage risk-taking in a safe environment.



Art Department Update

Revised Department Overview

With an emphasis on process, investigation, and reflection along with the elements and principles of design, we seek to endow every student with the tools to pursue, apply, and appreciate excellence in the visual arts as an integral part of their personal and professional journey. The creative thinking developed in the arts, such as holistic problem solving, empathy, pattern reading, and visualization of complex ideas, coupled with those formed in the core educational curriculum, is what will prepare our students to meet the emerging challenges of the future.



Art Department Update

Revised Course Name

Clay → Ceramics

Drawing → Drawing Studio I

Drawing Studio → Drawing Studio II

Short Films → Movie Making



Art Department Update

Designation Removal - Humanities

AP Studio Art Drawing



Art Department Update

New Designations - STEM



Photography: Darkroom to Digital
Commercial Photography



Mathematics Department Update

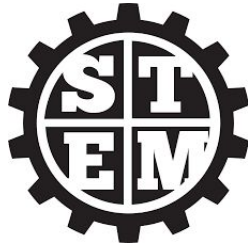
Removal of Course Offerings

Algebra II Level 3



Mathematics Department Update

New Course Offerings



Algebra II A

Algebra II B

Algebra II C



Science Department Update

Revised Course Name

Earth Science → Conceptual Astronomy



Science Department Update

Revised Grade Level Offerings: Grades 9 - 12

Conceptual Astronomy

Conceptual Chemistry

Conceptual Physics



World Language Department Update

Revised UCONN Course Alignment

AP French 5

Global Culture 1: FREN3250



THANK YOU!

*The following slides contain any new or revised
Course Descriptions.*



Animation I

Animation has become a powerful medium for self-expression, entertainment, branding products, and generating excitement about an idea.

This course will move students from a content consumer to a content creator by introducing them to the creative process of bringing characters and ideas to life. Through the development of technical skills and the use of planning with storyboards, students will apply their learning in a business setting, a storytelling setting, and an expression of their choice.

Animation II

Bring your ideas to life with greater detail and creativity. Animation II builds on the skills from Animation I, guiding students to refine their techniques. Students will explore current trends in the animation industry, create characters, develop a music video and collaborate as a production team to plan, problem-solve, and produce polished animated works.

***NEW* Algebra II A**

This course focuses on essential algebraic concepts necessary for advanced mathematics and is intended to prepare students for Algebra II B. Students will review and deepen their understanding of core concepts including systems of equations and inequalities and linear equations and functions. Students will explore quadratic and exponential equations and their functions.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I

This course is open to all students who have completed Algebra I and required for students earning C+ or lower in Algebra I.

***NEW* Algebra II B**

This course focuses on the major function families and their characteristics. It is intended to prepare students for Algebra II C, Statistics, Pre-College Algebra & Trigonometry or Discrete Math. Topics include a detailed study of equations and functions, including absolute value, quadratic, and polynomial.

Prerequisite: Algebra I with a grade of B- or higher or completion of Algebra II A.

***NEW* Algebra II C**

This course focuses on advanced topics in algebra, introducing students to key topics for precalculus. Students will study the relationship between exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, and provides an introduction to trigonometric functions.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra II B

Algebra II C is required for students planning to take precalculus.

AP French 5

This course is a French conversation course designed to improve oral proficiency as students continue to advance skills in reading, writing, and listening in the French language, as well as enhancing their cultural competency. Through articles, podcasts, videos, and newscasts that address a wide variety of topics, students will gain an appreciation for contemporary francophone culture and develop the tools necessary to express their opinions and ideas through written and oral French. As part of the requirements of this course, students will present a topic of their choice and lead a debate with their classmates for twenty minutes. Students will also choose a French novel to read and analyze. The course includes ongoing grammar review. Students must speak exclusively in French during the course. Students taking this course are encouraged to take the College Board's AP French Language and Culture examination in May.

AP Latin 4

Students in Latin 4 will follow the AP curriculum begun in Latin 3 Honors. Students will be reading, in both English and Latin, major sections of the great Roman epic, Vergil's Aeneid, Pliny the Younger, and a selection of Latin poetry. Students will engage in project-based learning focused on four passages selected by the College Board annually. The course acts as a culmination of themes, vocabulary, and grammar skills developed throughout the students' high school career. Students in Latin 4 will be asked to answer the questions: "How do the victors shape history?", "What makes a hero?", and "How does style shape meaning?" Students taking this course are encouraged to take the College Board's AP Latin Examination in May.

AP Studio Art Drawing

Take artistic expression to the next level through a personal sustained investigation to create a conceptually and aesthetically cohesive body of artwork. Students drive their own creative journey and instruction is tailored to compliment their individual needs.

This course focuses on the synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas in the creation of meaningful and personally relevant work. As students engage in the creative process, they will be expected to document their progress and ideas, consider how the work should be presented, and write artist statements that articulate information for the viewer. AP Drawing students should be motivated to challenge themselves to the highest standards of creation, be prepared to work consistently in class and at home, and revise work based on feedback.

The AP Drawing exam is the submission of a digital portfolio to College Board documenting the work done during the course for adjudication. Students who submit portfolios will receive a score ranging from 1-5.

Ceramics

This is a hands-on course designed to teach students the foundational skills necessary to create beautiful and practical works of ceramics. From the very beginning students will dive into the world of pottery, learning to throw on the potter's wheel (a skill everyone will practice and refine throughout the trimester). Students will also cover clay preparation and wedging, surface design techniques, and the application of various glazes and their effects. Come learn how to enjoy creating a variety of functional pieces of art like mugs, bowls, vases, and lidded containers.

Commercial Photography

Photography is a vitally important aspect of almost every entrepreneurship venture.

Businesses wanting to sell a product or promote their brand look to the field of photography. It can be a lucrative market for those who excel at it. This course will focus on the use of the studio to develop essential skills such as mastery of digital cameras, studio lighting, composition, and imagination/creativity. Students will also explore how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are influencing the field of photography—from concept development to post-production—while learning to navigate these tools in an ethical and responsible manner. There will be an emphasis on creating photos to be displayed in magazines, websites, and other forms of social media through development in the four most sought-after categories of commercial photography: fashion, food, portraiture, and product advertising.

Conceptual Astronomy

This course is designed to support students in developing essential skills for navigating the world, including those in mathematics and reading for information, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Through engaging learning experiences, students will develop the inquiry skills necessary to succeed in future science courses.

This subject of Astronomy explores how scientists learn about the universe by interpreting the light and motion of objects in space. Using simple models and real data, students estimate stellar distances, describe star properties, and explain how stars, including our Sun, form, change, and end, connecting that story to the formation of the planets within our solar system. Learning is hands-on and visual, with lab activities, scientific modeling, observations, and performance-based assessments that build on students' math and data analysis skills.

Movie Making

Dreaming of big-screen fame and fortune? Hone your filmmaking skills in this class!

Students will complete a series of short films which explore various aspects of storytelling and filmmaking techniques. From moody silent films to montage theory to special effects added in post-production, students cover a wide range of cinematic approaches to storytelling. No experience is necessary!

Photography: Darkroom to Digital

Stop snapping and start *creating*. This course is a deep dive into the art of visual storytelling. Students explore the entire photographic process, beginning with the tangible, historical beauty of film photography and darkroom printing. Next, unlock the full potential of digital cameras (DSLRs), applying pro-level techniques and design principles. Students will also explore how emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are influencing the field of photography—from concept development to post-production—while learning to navigate these tools in an ethical and responsible manner. Students will develop a unique style, execute a conceptual photo series, and utilize advanced Photoshop editing. Through critiques students will use feedback and self-reflection to transform your vision into a polished, professional looking portfolio.

Printmaking

Printmaking is an approach to art making where the artist builds an image on one surface and transfers it to a final surface, producing work with a unique quality that differs from drawing or painting. As an indirect, process-driven method, printmaking lends itself to spontaneity and experimentation. In this course, students will explore a variety of printmaking methods and techniques. Approaches include intaglio printmaking, block printing, montypes, and experimental printmaking. This course will introduce students to the basics of each approach, studio safety and printing press use. Students will have the opportunity to develop their own unique imagery and approach within each method. No drawing or painting experience is required, just a willingness to engage in creative play and imagination!

Sculpture

Experience the excitement of three-dimensional art! This hands-on introductory course teaches students how to create three-dimensional forms using a variety of materials and essential sculptural techniques. Students will learn core skills such as modeling, casting, and construction. The course focuses on critical art concepts like volume, texture, and composition to help effectively translate your creative vision into finished art objects.

United States History

In the U.S. History course, students will explore the themes of liberty, equality, opportunity, and America's place in the world through the historical lenses of the incredibly diverse groups (African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Latinos, European immigrants, and the many other communities*) that have shaped and continue to shape the American story. In each unit of study, students will have the opportunity to engage in deep learning through inquiry and an increased focus on historical thinking. Learning in this course relies extensively on the reading and interpretation of primary sources and other forms of historical evidence, independent research, and the clear communication of ideas. By the end of the course, students will have developed their own understandings of how the United States has become what it is, and will be empowered to shape the nation in the 21st century.

** In accordance with CT PA 22-80 Sec. 33*