

ARTS Diploma Endorsement Program



DECLARATION OF INTENT

ARTS Endorsement Purpose Statement

Miami Country Day School seeks to inspire a lifelong involvement in the arts for each of our students. The Arts Endorsement allows students who have a particular passion in Music, Theater or Visual Art, the opportunity to have an in-depth, personal learning experience with their craft. Finding one's artistic voice whether on a canvas, the stage or beyond, requires deep learning, discipline and commitment. The Arts Endorsement program provides space and coursework for this artistic voice to develop and cultivate students to share their art with the world.

A message from the Director of Arts Education and Programs

Thank you so much for your interest in the Arts Diploma Endorsement program. Your passion and commitment for the arts is inspiring. The diploma endorsement program was created to provide an outlet for visual and performing arts students such as yourself to study your discipline in depth and share your art with the world.

Below, you will find the five components for earning the diploma. This endorsement program will encompass two to three years of Upper School, and eligibility for the program starts at the end of the Ninth grade year. Our goal will be for "The Show" (component 5) presentations to take place by the end of the second week in May. Of course, we will continue to meet throughout the year to ensure that you are on target for a successful completion.

Upon signing this document, you are expressing your commitment toward the program. Consequently, the term "Arts Diploma Endorsement" will appear on your transcript as a course in progress. Once you have successfully completed all components, you will receive a grade of "P" (pass) for this course. This is a non-credit bearing course meaning it will not count toward your overall graduation credits, nor towards your cumulative GPA. However, since it appears on your transcript, any college or university will be able to see that you have taken it upon yourself to work on this endeavor. If, for some reason, you decide not to continue working toward the diploma during your Senior year, the school will have to notify all those schools to which you have applied regarding your change of status. At graduation, you will receive recognition in the graduation program, a seal on your diploma, and be issued a special stole to proudly wear over your graduation robe.

I look forward to our inspiring conversations about your growth as a visual/performing artist. At a minimum, you will meet monthly with your Arts faculty advisor and once each semester with me, to touch base and to ensure that benchmarks are met. As this program is purely voluntary, it will be incumbent upon you to arrange and attend these meetings. Again, congratulations on going above and beyond the minimum to further your education and to share your artistry with the world around you.

Sincerely,
Miss Alfonso,
Director of Arts Education and Programs

Component 1: Curriculum

“Instead of a national curriculum for education, what is really needed is an individual curriculum for every child.”

–Charles Handy

A student will go beyond the Arts requirement of one year and complete at least three years (beginning sophomore year) of Arts classes in their chosen discipline (Visual Art, Music, or Theater) with the following requirements:

- **Music Students:** Participation in at least one in-school music ensemble per semester and private lessons on their primary instrument. In addition, students must perform/audition for Solo and Ensemble Districts and All-State.
- **Theater & Technical Theater Students:** Membership in the International Thespian Honor Society, participation in at least one production per semester and participation in weekly private coaching with theater faculty.
- **Visual Art Students:** Membership in Arts Honor Society, Participation in AP Art/Art History or the equivalent (as determined by Arts faculty) by Junior/Senior Year and entry into at least 2 art shows per academic year.

Component 2: Portfolio

“I think the more important task for a young person than developing a personal brand is figuring out what she’s great at, what she loves to do, and how she can use that to leave an imprint in the world.

Those are tough questions, but essential ones. Answer those – and the personal brand follows.”

–Daniel H. Pink

Visual Art: A portfolio that consists of at least 8 finished and polished pieces with a theme that ties the work together. There need not be any specific media, and the work should be your best, most imaginative, or highest in creativity.

Theater:

- Acting students will prepare four memorized monologues (two heightened text and two contemporary). You must prepare a one minute and two minute cut of each piece. At least one of the heightened text selections must be from a play by Shakespeare.
- Musical Theater Students will prepare two monologues no longer than one minute. one of heightened text and one contemporary or two contrasting monologues. Two contrasting, 32-bar cuts from musicals that best show off your voice and range.
- Technical Theater Students will prepare their choice of a technical design for Technical Adjudication yearly and enter into a Theater conference. least 2 art shows per academic year.

Music Students will prepare:

- Instrumental Students: Three-Octave Major and Minor Scales in Four Keys (dependent upon instrument)
- 2–3 Contrasting Pieces in the genre of your specialty (i.e.: Classical, Jazz). If auditioning for colleges, pieces will be selected in conjunction with college audition requirements.

Component 3: Service Learning

“I believe musicians have a duty, a responsibility to reach out, to share your love or pain with others.”

–James Taylor

A student will design and complete at least one community service project that meets the following criteria:

- Involves using the student’s art form as a community service focus
- Involves more than 8 hours of documented work
- Is approved by the Director of Community Service prior to commencing and fulfills all pre-approved requirements upon completion

Component 4: Jury

“Metamorphosis has always been the greatest symbol of change for poets and artists. Imagine that you could be a caterpillar one moment and a butterfly the next.”

–Louie Schwartzberg

Arts students will present for a jury at the end of each semester. The jury is made up of at least 2 Arts teachers and is an opportunity for the student to share their progress over the semester.

Component 5:

The SHOW

“There’s a power in what we hold as artists, and part of that comes with responsibility... to share the human experience and really allow that to be seen.”

– Tracee Ellis Ross

Students will work to design and create a 15– 20 minute performance, presentation, recital or a gallery show. This presentation will be designed with the coordination and approval of the supervising teacher, gallery curator and/or Tech specialist as necessary.