

Apex + Syllabus

All Apex Arts students are enrolled in PVA Performance Plus Survey. This course includes Apex + Wednesday Classes, Professional Arts Experiences and Summer Bridge. This is a year-long course for students enrolled in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Failure to maintain a B or higher in this course will result in students being placed on academic probation and could result in removal from the program. This course is a credited course and therefore follows all AACPS policies regarding attendance and assessment.

Apex + Classes

During Apex +, students will work with teaching artists to gain experience in their prime arts area. Instruction will focus on specific techniques that extend beyond the content of the regular day Prime classes, allowing students to expand their repertoire. All classes are performance or product based, with opportunities to collaborate across arts areas. Students will present their work in a culminating showcase at the end of each quarter. All students will produce and present a capstone project that encapsulates their Apex Arts experience during the 4th quarter of 8th grade. Apex + is an integrated and assessed component of the program and is a requirement for all students.

How is it Implemented?

Apex + will take place over the course of 9 classes per session (Trimester). Classes will meet once a week on Wednesdays for one hour.

Course structures are designed by Primes, with the structures varying depending on the content area. Students will either audition, be placed or have choice within their prime. Students will work with their prime arts teacher and any teaching artists in content that is aligned to the curriculum of daytime instruction.

Apex Arts Clubs

Students will have the opportunity to participate in school-wide arts based clubs outside of their prime. These clubs are open to all students and occur throughout the year. Club options vary by school and student interest and may include opportunities to participate in musicals, technical theatre, AVID for artists, dance experiences, community arts, garage band, a capella, etc. Clubs occur after school, as scheduled by school location.

Attendance Policies

Attendance for Apex + classes is mandatory and is considered as part of the final grade. Extended day classes are an extension of the regular school day and therefore follow all AACPS policies regarding attendance. For an absence to be excused, students must provide the teacher specialist with a note for any absence including: missing the entire school day, attending school but missing extended day, early dismissal from the school day resulting in missing extended day and/or leaving extended day early.

If absences are excused, students will be provided with the opportunity to make up the work missed for credit. If a student does not make up the work within the allotted time, then they will not get credit for the work missed. Make up work will be determined by the teacher in collaboration with the prime arts teacher (if not the instructor of the course) and teacher specialist.

If absences are not excused then students will not be allowed to make up work missed and credit will be lost. Extended absences will be reviewed on a case by case basis with PVA leadership. Failure to attend extended day classes on a regular basis could result in removal from the PVA program.

Grading Policies

Apex + Wednesday’s consists of 9 classes per session, Students will receive a grade for each of the nine classes. Students will be assessed using the following rubrics.

Middle School Extended Day Rubrics

APEX + Class Rubric	0-5
1. Commits to the creative process and artistic aesthetic development through brainstorming, researching, creating, rehearsing, evaluating, editing, and presenting.	
2. Demonstrates self-motivation, focus, and grit to effectively elevate their art	
3. Is able to discuss/demonstrate the art form utilizing professional and technical vocabulary.	
4. Participates in critiques and uses feedback from peers and instructors to revise and refine their work.	
5. Collaborates and cooperates with teaching and student artists with a sense of professionalism and discovery.	
Total (out of possible 25)	
Possible Scores	
5= Consistently meeting standards	
4= Meeting standards	
3= Meeting partial standards	
2 =Meeting minimal standards	
1= Not meeting standards	
0= No attempt at meeting standards	

Apex + Showcase Rubric	0-5
1. Commitment to the overall performance or presentation of work.	
2. Quality of performance or presentation of work.	
3. Demonstrates proper audience etiquette.	
4. Reflects on artistic growth and performance.	
5. Collaborates with students and teaching artist to present a cohesive body of work.	
Total (out of possible 25)	
Possible Scores	
5= Consistently meeting standards 4= Meeting standards 3= Meeting partial standards 2 =Meeting minimal standards 1= Not meeting standards 0= No attempt at meeting standards	

Professional Arts Experiences

Apex Arts aims to expose students to a broad range of professional arts experiences, locally and regionally. These experiences may consist of museum tours, exhibitions, musical, dance or theatrical performances, rehearsals and workshops. Students are required to attend one Prime based and one outside arts field trip each semester of each year. These trips will take place during the school day, evenings and weekends as scheduled. Participation in these experiences are assessed and required for all Apex Arts students.

Attendance Policy

Attendance for Apex Arts Professional Arts Experiences (PAE) are mandatory and is considered as part of the final grade for Apex +. If a student is unable to attend an evening or weekend trip, they must notify the teacher specialist in advance for the absence to be considered excused. AACPS attendance policies for excused absences apply. If a student does not notify the teacher specialist of an absence in advance, the absence is considered unexcused and can be made up for partial credit. Students are responsible for going to the teacher specialist to get make up assignments if they miss a PAE. All makeup work is due within one month of the absence or before the end of the marking period, whichever comes first. Makeup for PAEs consists of attending an outside professional arts event that has been approved by the teacher specialist, completing a reflection and providing proof of attendance. The student must attend the event after the makeup assignment is given for it to be considered. Failure to sign up for PAE is the equivalent of an unexcused absence and may result in a failing grade and possible removal

from the Apex Arts program. If a student misses a school day Prime based field trip, opportunity for a make up assignment will be given, provided the absence is excused.

Grading Policy

Students will be assessed and graded for each outside and prime based experience that they are scheduled to attend. Grades for evening and weekend arts experiences will be included in the Apex + course grade. Grades for arts experiences that occur during the regular school day through prime arts classes will be included in the prime arts class grade. Students will be assessed on specific criteria using the following rubric.

PAE Rubric	0-5
1. Demonstrates proper audience etiquette.	
2. Engaged in the experience (workshop, artist talks, tour, etc)	
3. Articulates artistic relevance and context with proper terminology (Pre Discussion)	
4. Reflect on performance and relate it your own artistic growth (Post Discussion)	
5. Interacts with staff, artists and students with a sense of discovery and professionalism	
Total (out of possible 25)	
Possible Scores	
5= Consistently meeting standards 4= Meeting standards 3= Meeting partial standards 2 =Meeting minimal standards 1= Not meeting standards 0= No attempt at meeting standards	

Summer Bridge

All Apex Arts Students are required to attend a three day Summer Bridge program as incoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders. During the Summer Bridge experience, students will have the opportunity to explore various art forms as well as further their knowledge and skills in their prime arts area. If students are not able to attend Summer Bridge as scheduled, they may attend an alternate arts based camp/program that equals a minimum of 24 instructional hours. Prior approval is required for alternate arts experiences.

Attendance Policies

Attendance for Apex Arts Summer Bridge is mandatory and is considered as part of the first quarter grade for Apex +. Students must attend all three days to receive full credit. In the event students are unable to attend Summer Bridge, students may participate in a comparable arts based experience on their own. Documentation of participation and a reflection on the experience are required for all alternative Summer Bridge assignments. All alternative experiences must receive prior approval from the teacher specialist. In order for an alternate camp/program to be approved, it must be arts based content of an equivalent level to Apex Arts and equal a minimum of 24 instructional hours.

Failure to sign up for summer bridge or get approval for an alternative experience in advance is the equivalent of an unexcused absence and may result in a failing grade and possible removal from the Apex Arts program.

Grading Policies

Students will be assessed on their participation in the three day session of Summer Bridge. Grades for the Summer Bridge program will be included in their Apex + course grade for the 1st marking period. Students will complete a self assessment and reflection on the last day of the class and submit that to the teaching artists. Students will be graded using the following rubric for each class session in Summer Bridge.

Summer Bridge Rubric	0-5
1. Commits to the creative process and artistic development.	
2. Engage, persist and problem solve.	
3. Articulates process using proper terminology of the art form.	
4. Uses critique/feedback to build knowledge and technique.	
5. Interacts with teaching artist and student artists with a sense of discovery and professionalism through collaboration and cooperation.	
Total (out of possible 25)	
Possible Scores	
5= Consistently meeting standards	
4= Meeting standards	
3= Meeting partial standards	
2 =Meeting minimal standards	
1= Not meeting standards	
0= No attempt at meeting standards	
Comments	

Marking Period Grades

The course grade will be calculated using the following weighted categories. **Parents and students should check ParentConnect regularly to monitor student grades and ensure they are accurate.** It is imperative that any discrepancies be brought to attention in a timely manner.

1st Marking Period	Weight
Summer Bridge	33.3%
Extended Day Class	33.3%
Professional Arts Experiences	33.3%
2nd- 4th Marking Period	
Extended Day Class	75%
Professional Arts Experiences	25%

Behavior Expectations

Apex + Course (Apex + Wednesday, PAE, Summer Bridge) are an extension of the student's school day. Students are expected to behave in a manner that is in accordance with school policies and the magnet contract. The school discipline letter will be used to determine appropriate consequences when necessary. Discipline or citizenship infractions may result in probation or dismissal from the program.

Contact Information

For question about grading, attendance or scheduling of events, please contact:

Brooklyn Park Middle School

Matt Beall

mcbhall@aacps.org

410-507-4854

Apex + Teacher Specialist

2022-2023

Please sign and return this portion to the teacher specialist or your child's Prime Arts teacher. Keep the rest for your records.

We have read the course syllabus and understand the expectations and policies.

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____ Parent Phone #: _____