

**CREATE**



**LEARN**



**BE YOU**



# Arts at the Capitol Theater Performing Arts Magnet High School

## Program of Studies 2018-2019



# Welcome to ACT!



Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) is a full-day high school program designed for students who want to learn through the performing arts. ACT students have a full load of courses in the performing arts and academic areas. All courses are designed to help students make cross-curricular connections between content areas.

What I enjoy most as principal of this school is watching the growth that occurs in our students from freshman year to senior year. Our students leave ACT ready for college or the workforce. They are taught responsibility, accountability and commitment; three characteristics essential to success after high school.

I am incredibly proud of our school community for receiving initial accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges in the fall of 2017. This accreditation demonstrates ACT's commitment to upholding our school's core values and beliefs and ensuring the highest instructional standards in both the arts and academic areas.

ACT is a place where students can shine. Students at this school are free to create, perform and reach their true potential as students and artists. Our community allows students the chance to express themselves freely and to meet and befriend others from all different backgrounds. Above all, ACT students are welcoming, committed and live by ACT's core value of RESPECT: Respect Yourself, Respect the Work, Respect the Community.

This school is a special place with dedicated students and we would love you to be a part of our family.

*Sarah Mallory*  
ACT Principal

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## SCHOOL INFORMATION

**Main Office:**  
860-465-5636

**Address:**  
Capitol Theater  
896 Main Street  
Willimantic, CT 06226

**Website:**  
[www.eastconn.org/act](http://www.eastconn.org/act)



# Faculty & Staff



ACT has caring, committed staff members who are dedicated to each and every student. Below is a comprehensive staff list. Please feel free to contact them if any questions or concerns arise. Contact information can be found on our website: <http://www.eastconn.org/act-about-us/staff>

## ADMINISTRATION

**Sarah Mallory**

Principal

**Jessica Folta**

Administrative Assistant

## STUDENT SUPPORT

**Kim Norvadhana**

School Counselor

**Nina Shea**

Social Worker

**Jane Glenn**

Special Education

**Olessya Barbo**

Special Education

**Joanne Sailor**

Instructional Assistant

**Jade Starbala**

Interpreter

**Ava Molnar**

Instructional Assistant

## ACADEMICS

**David Hinds**

Spanish

**Preston Hyer**

Social Studies

**Marcia Loricco**

Mathematics

**Randy Nokes**

Mathematics

**Bethany Pomerantz**

Social Studies

**Jacob Reilly**

P.E. & Health

**Stacy Vocasek**

English

**Rebecca Weir**

Science

## SECURITY

**Peter Smat**

## ARTS

**Melissa Basch**

Dance

**Daniel Boisvert**

Audio/Visual Production

**Sandra Evans-Abbott**

Acting/Vocal Performance

**Tiana Mancuso**

Dance

**Ava Molnar**

Theater Production

**Sarah Murphy**

Costume Design

**Katherine Popovic**

Music

**Stacy Vocasek**

Creative Writing

**Ara Wilnas**

Dance



# Core Values & Beliefs



The students, teachers, parents, and community members of ACT collaborate to promote an education in arts and academics that inspires intellectual exploration, creative expression, and personal motivation in students. Through intensive, rigorous educational experiences in our caring and safe environment, our students learn to understand deeply the imperative that is our philosophical foundation: **Respect Yourself, Respect the Work and Respect the Community.**

## **THE ACT COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT:**

- Arts education enhances academic learning
- Academic learning strengthens artistic endeavors
- Real-world application of learning embeds knowledge
- Effective teaching and learning involves effective collaboration
- Diversity is a strength that must be actively embraced in learning

## **THE ACT COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED TO:**

- Educating the whole person - intellectually, creatively, physically, emotionally
- Respecting individual differences, talents, and life experiences
- Preparing students for productive lives as artists and as citizens
- Elevating personal and artistic standards through education
- Making connections among arts, academics, and life

## **THE ACT COMMUNITY PROVIDES:**

- A respectful, safe environment in which students explore their creativity
- Opportunities for new areas of learning and personal expression
- A professional perspective and preparation for life in the arts and in the world
- Purposeful, effective integration of arts and academic curricula
- Unique, authentic learning experiences and assessments

# Student Learning Expectations



## ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

### The ACT student...

- Effectively integrates the arts and creative expression in learning across academic and arts disciplines.
- Writes effectively with clarity, purpose, and understanding for an appropriate audience.
- Demonstrates effective communication for a variety of purposes and audiences with accurate content, clarity, and confidence.
- Applies effective strategies for problem-solving by gathering information, analyzing and interpreting data, thinking critically, and communicating strategies.
- Demonstrates skillful and creative expression in the arts and evaluates character and aesthetic qualities in art forms.
- Demonstrates effective reading and listening skills for a variety of purposes.

## SOCIAL EXPECTATIONS

### The ACT student...

- Takes responsibility for their words and actions.
- Demonstrates effective collaboration skills as a member of a team, is able to teach others new skills, and exercises leadership qualities and negotiation skills.
- Understands and applies concepts of lifelong physical, mental, and social health.
- Demonstrates a professional perspective and preparation for post-secondary success.

## CIVIC EXPECTATIONS

### The ACT student...

- Demonstrates ethical behavior and respect for diversity.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the school, the community, and the world.
- Understands and respects the need for self-discipline, accountability, integrity, and ethics in a civil society.

# Curriculum

The ACT curriculum prepares students for success in the 21st century, as they develop their skills as critical thinkers, collaborators, creators and effective communicators. Through the integration of artistic and academic learning in a highly-individualized learning environment, students develop their ability to problem solve, be flexible and adapt.

## ARTS

Students come to ACT because they share an interest in the performing arts. Creating, performing and responding to works of art gives students a greater understanding and an aesthetic appreciation of the arts, and opportunities for real-world applications of their learning.

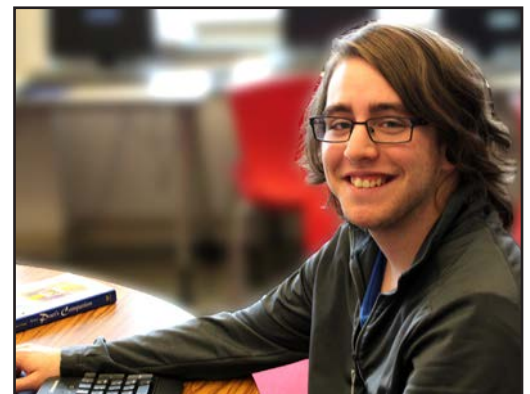
ACT offers 5 majors from which students can choose: Acting/Vocal Performance, Audio/Video Production, Creative Writing, Dance or Theater Production. These majors give students a chance to focus on an area of interest with purpose and intent. *Please see the Performing Arts section on page 7 for more information on each major.*



## ACADEMICS

ACT's academic courses, which are based on the Connecticut State Department of Education's Curriculum Frameworks and Connecticut Core Standards in English and Math, thoroughly integrate concepts from the performing arts. Small class sizes and differentiated instruction allow students' individual learning needs to be addressed, while hands-on learning experiences and performance-based assessments measure student growth in arts and academic subjects.

ACT's academic subject areas include core requirements and electives in math, science, social studies, English, world language and physical education. Students get to choose other electives such as Historical Documentary, Revolutionary Sounds: The History of Popular Music, Culture of Film, and Newspaper. In their senior year, students complete a Senior Capstone Project. The purpose of this project is to engage each student in a personalized learning experience and demonstration that represents the culmination of their learning in the arts-based major of their choice.



## COLLEGE COURSE OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to college prep and honors courses offered at ACT, an agreement with Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) enables students to earn college credits at no cost by attending university classes. Additional opportunities to pursue college-level work are available thanks to a partnership with Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC).

# Graduation Requirements

## I. CREDITS & COURSES

Requirements for graduation are consistent with Connecticut requirements.

COURSE SEQUENCE	CREDIT DISTRIBUTION
<b>Freshman Year</b>	English 4 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 9</li> <li>Math (Alg. I or Geometry)</li> <li>Physical Science</li> <li>World History</li> <li>Performing Arts Major</li> <li>Foreign Language</li> <li>P.E./Health</li> </ul>	Math 4 credits
<b>Sophomore Year</b>	Science 3 credits <i>(1 credit in Life Science and 1 credit in Physical Science is required)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 10</li> <li>Math (Geometry or Alg. II)</li> <li>Biology</li> <li>U.S. History</li> <li>Performing Arts Major</li> <li>Foreign Language</li> <li>P.E./Health</li> </ul>	Social Studies 3 credits <i>(1 credit in U.S. History required) (.5 credit in Civics required)</i>
<b>Junior Year</b>	Physical Education (P.E.)* 2 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 11</li> <li>Math (Alg. II or Pre-Calc)</li> <li>Environmental Science</li> <li>Psychology, Sociology or Civics</li> <li>Performing Arts Major</li> <li>Foreign Language</li> <li>P.E./Health</li> </ul>	Health* .5 credits
<b>Senior Year</b>	Foreign Language** 2 credits
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Students must earn a minimum of 4 academic credits)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English 12</li> <li>Math (Pre-Calc, Consumer Math or A.P. Statistics)</li> <li>Anatomy &amp; Physiology or Biology II</li> <li>Psychology II, Sociology or Civics</li> <li>Performing Arts Major</li> <li>Foreign Language</li> <li>P.E./Health</li> </ul>	Community Service .5 credits <i>(No fewer than 50 hours)</i>
	Fine and Performing Arts*** 20 credits
	Seminar/Senior Project 4 credits
	<b>TOTAL 43 CREDITS</b>

\*P.E. and Health can be taken at any point, but students must have a P.E. minimum of 2 credits and complete a semester of .5 Health credit.

\*\*Foreign Language (Spanish) can be taken at any point, but students must have a minimum of two credits. ACT offers Spanish 1-4 and A.P.

\*\*\*Students must earn a minimum of 5 Fine and Performing Arts credits **per year**. Please see the *Performing Arts* section on page 7 for specific major related courses and course sequences.



## II. SENIOR CAPSTONE: LEGACY PROJECT

The purpose of the Senior Capstone: Legacy Project at ACT is to engage each student in a personalized learning experience and demonstration that represents the culmination of their learning in the arts-based major of their choice. The goal is to create a “Legacy Project” that will make a lasting impact on the community (school, town, state, global).

The project allows students the opportunity to investigate a specialized area of interest as they apply and demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired in arts and academics. Seniors will have the assistance of a faculty advisor to guide them through the processes entailed in this project and an adult mentor who has specific knowledge of the area the student has chosen to explore. Students will meet with their faculty advisor and mentor each quarter.

PROJECT COMPONENTS	DATE REQUIRED
Submit project proposal, obtain faculty advisor approval and complete Reflection #1	Quarter 1
Engage in research/investigation, establish project connections in the community/outreach, establish arts integration, build “works cited” list and complete Reflection #2	Quarter 2
Continue community connections, complete research paper and complete Reflection #3	Quarter 3
Complete tri-fold, finalize presentation/performance arrangement, present to the public and complete post-presentation reflection	Quarter 4

The Senior Capstone Project is a graduation requirement. Final evaluation of each student’s project will be conducted by the Senior Capstone Project Committee, and will include:

- A review of all written and product components
- Rubric scores of presentations on Presentation Day
- Student’s self-assessment and input from advisors and mentors

Please see the guidance counselor or the ACT website for a copy of the Senior Capstone Project Manual and the rubric for Arts Integration Across the Disciplines, which indicates the components of successful achievement of the project.

## III. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS

All students must achieve a rating of “Proficient” on at least one formal, summative assessment in each Academic Performance Expectation area. The assessment rubrics can be found on our website:

[www.eastconn.org/act](http://www.eastconn.org/act)

- Arts Integration: Senior Demonstration
- Arts and Aesthetic Literacy
- Effective Writing
- Problem-Solving
- Effective Communication
- Reading and Listening

# Performing Arts Majors

ACT offers 5 majors from which students can choose: Acting/Vocal Performance, Audio/Video Production, Creative Writing, Dance and Theater Production. These majors give students a chance to focus on an area of interest with purpose and intent. Each major has its own required program courses in addition to the required academic courses for graduation. Students must earn a minimum of 5 Fine and Performing Arts credits a year. The grids on the following pages outline each major and its suggested course sequence.



*All classes in bold are required courses.*

## ACTING/VOCAL PERFORMANCE

**Faculty Contacts: Sandra Evans-Abbott & Katherine Popovic**

Students study voice and diction to develop International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) diction and articulation for performance. Basic acting theory and technique are introduced, as well as researching and performing scenes from a variety of periods and theatrical styles. Movement for stage, character analysis, and stage make-up are other areas students explore. Musical instruction is provided through A Capella, Musical Theater classes, Beginning Singing and Performance Singing. Performance opportunities include a musical, a play and music night for advanced students as well as various other opportunities for students to perform short scenes, monologues and musical selections throughout the year.

GRADE	COURSES
9	<b>Acting 1, Voice &amp; Diction 1</b>
10	<b>Acting 2, Voice &amp; Diction 2</b>
11	<b>Character Analysis, Upperclassman courses</b> (chosen by an Acting teacher)
12	<b>Upperclassman courses</b> (chosen by an Acting teacher)

## AUDIO/VIDEO PRODUCTION

**Faculty Contact: Dan Boisvert**

Students utilize state of the art cameras and editing software to film, produce and edit their own videos. Videos produced at ACT have placed in the top 10 for the statewide “Teen Safe Driving” DMV contest 7 years in a row. Audio/Video students have the opportunity to create commercials, PSA’s and documentaries for local businesses and community members and present all of their hard work at least twice per year during VideoFest (open to the public). In addition, Audio/Video students study audio production, Photoshop, animation, and music editing/creation through Garage Band.

GRADE	COURSES
9	<b>Intro to A/V, Video Editing</b> , Photoshop, Animation, Video Gaming*, 3D Blender*
10	<b>Final Cut/Mac Motion</b>
11	<b>Adv. AV/Screen Writing, Documentary Production, Community Video Production, Apple Motion</b>
12	<b>Same as above</b>

\*Video Gaming and 3D Blender are classes that can be taken any year.

## CREATIVE WRITING

### Faculty Contacts: Stacy Vocasek

Students practice writing across a wide range of literary genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, creative nonfiction, SLAM and mythology. Students develop the critical skills to analyze and evaluate literature as writers, and workshop with their peers. Writers support theater, dance and video performances by writing for stage and screen. Students present their work through Coffee House performances, poetry readings, writing contests and publications.

GRADE	COURSES
9	<b>Intro to Creative Writing, Intro to Poetry, Inspired Creative Writing</b>
10	<b>Adv. Short Fiction &amp; Dramatic Writing, Adv. Poetry &amp; Portfolio Development, Inspired Creative Writing</b>
11	<b>Adv. Short Fiction &amp; Dramatic Writing, Adv. Poetry &amp; Portfolio Development, Adv. AV/Screen Writing, Mythology (offered every other year), Memoir (offered every other year)</b>
12	<b>Same as above</b>

## DANCE

### Faculty Contacts: Tiana Mancuso, Ara Wilnas, Melissa Basch

Students study multiple styles of dance including: Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Hip-Hop, Tap, Latin and Contemporary. Emphasis is placed on choreographic principles throughout several classes that allow students to create and perform their own choreography. Dance students collaborate with other departments to become aware of how lighting, sets, and costumes enhance dance. Multiple performance opportunities are available, including community events such as Third Thursday, Student Dance Company Showcase and DanceFest.

GRADE	COURSES
9	<b>Ballet I, Jazz I, Modern I Hip Hop I, Tap I, Choreography I,</b>
10	<b>Ballet I/II, Jazz I/II, Modern I/II Hip Hop I/II, Tap I/II, Choreography I/II,</b>
11	<b>Ballet I/II, Jazz I/II, Modern I/II, Repertory, Hip Hop II/III, Dance &amp; Anatomy, Student Dance Company</b>
12	<b>Ballet II/III, Jazz II, Modern II, Repertory, Hip Hop II/III, Choreography II, Student Dance Company</b>



# THEATER PRODUCTION

**Faculty Contacts: Ava Molnar, Sarah Murphy**

Students study the “behind-the-scenes” work necessary for successful, effective theater in classes that include Set Design and Construction, Lighting Design, Scenic Painting, Stage Management, Costume Design, Costume Construction, Costume Art and History of Costume. Professional technology is used in our fully equipped scene shop, costume shop and theater. Theater Production students are directly involved with every production that takes place at ACT, whether it’s running lights, building sets, stage managing, designing and constructing costumes, or making props. Students are able to collaborate with all other arts areas to enhance the quality of performances.

GRADE	COURSES
9	<b>Intro to Theater Production, Lighting I, Set Construction I, Scenic Design I, Scenic Painting*</b> , Costume Construction I
10	<b>Intro to Theater Production, Lighting II, Set Construction II, Drawing for Stage**</b> , Stage Management, Costume Construction II
11	<b>Scenic Design II, Set Construction III</b> , Costume Design/Production, Costume Art
12	<b>Set Construction III</b> , Costume Design I, Costume Design II, History of Costume

\*Scenic Painting is a class that can be taken any year.

\*\* Drawing for Stage is a pre-requisite for Set Construction III.

# ACT Creative Course Offerings

ACT reserves the right to withdraw or add courses, and to offer courses in terms other than those designated in this listing. Please visit our website [www.eastconn.org/act](http://www.eastconn.org/act) for full course descriptions.

## ACTING/VOCAL PERFORMANCE

A Capella  
Acting I & II  
Beginning Singing  
Character Analysis  
Keyboarding I & II  
Music Survey  
Music Theory  
Musical Theater Prep  
Performance Singing  
Show  
Sight Singing  
Stage Makeup  
Voice and Diction I & II

## AUDIO/VIDEO PRODUCTION

Community Video Production (CVP)  
Garage Band  
Historical Documentary  
Introduction to Audio/ Video  
Photoshop  
Stop Animation  
Video Editing  
Video Game Development  
Video Lighting  
3D Blender

## CREATIVE WRITING

Advanced A/V & Screenwriting  
Inspired Creative Writing  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Introduction to Poetry  
Memoirs  
Mythology  
Poetry for Performance

## DANCE

Ballet I, II & III  
Choreography I & II  
Company Rep 1 & II  
Company  
Dance and Anatomy  
Hip Hop I & II  
History of Dance  
Jazz I & II  
Modern Dance 1 & II  
Student Dance Company  
Tap

## THEATER PRODUCTION

Costume Construction I & II  
Costume Design I & II  
Drawing for the Stage  
History of Theater & Costume  
Introduction to Theater Production  
Light Design  
Lighting I & II  
Scenic Design  
Scenic Painting  
Set Construction I & II  
Stage Management  
Visual Creativity

## EXPLORING THE ARTS

Band Ensemble  
Culture of Film  
Debate  
Guitar  
Keyboarding I & II  
Newspaper  
Nutrition and Conditioning for Performers  
Revolutionary Sounds: Rock & Roll  
Spanish Performance  
Stress Management

# ACT Academic Course Offerings

ACT reserves the right to withdraw or add courses, and to offer courses in terms other than those designated in this listing. Please visit our website [www.eastconn.org/act](http://www.eastconn.org/act) for full course descriptions.

## ENGLISH

English 9  
English 10  
English 11  
English 12

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I  
Spanish II  
Spanish II  
Spanish IV

## MATHEMATICS

Algebra I & II  
Applied Mathematics  
AP Statistics  
Consumer Math  
Geometry  
Trigonometry

## P.E./HEALTH

Physical Education  
Health

## SCIENCE

Anatomy & Physiology  
Biology I & II  
Environmental Science  
Physical Science

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Civics  
Psychology I & II  
Sociology I & II  
U.S. History  
World History



EASTCONN, a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center, administers Arts at the Capitol Theater. Created in 1980 under Connecticut Statute 10-66a, EASTCONN exists to provide high-quality educational and related services to 36 member Boards of Education and the 33 communities they serve in northeastern Connecticut. We are governed by a Board of Directors, who are members of locally elected Boards of Education. For more information about EASTCONN and its programs and services, please contact EASTCONN's Communications Department at 860-455-0707.