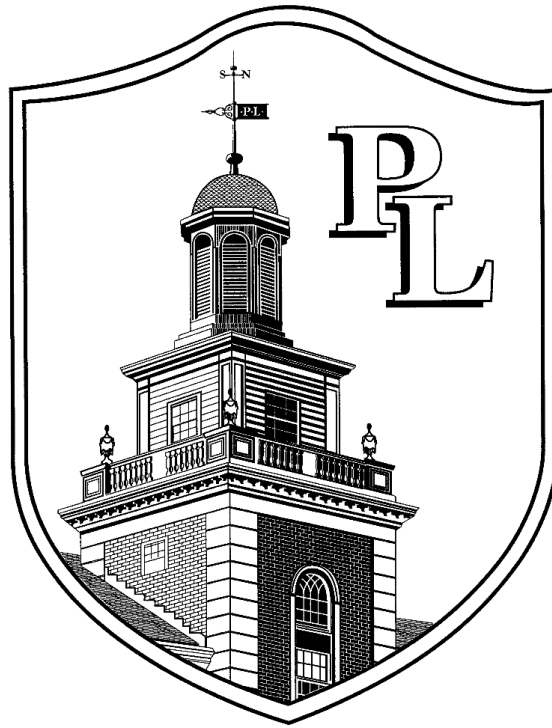


# **POMPTON LAKES HIGH SCHOOL**

## **CURRICULUM REPORT TO THE BOARD: INNOVATION IN THE ARTS**



**ART ♦ FORM, FUNCTION, AND DESIGN ♦ MUSIC**



Dr. Vincent S. Przybylinski, Jr., Principal  
Mr. Anthony J. Mattera, Assistant Principal  
Mr. Dennis DeCarlo, Teacher of Art  
Mr. Chad Flynn, Teacher of Music  
Chef Matthew Foley, Teacher of Culinary Arts  
Mrs. Karyn Hennessy, Instructional Technology Coach  
Mr. Kevin Sullivan, Teacher of Art  
Mr. John Turano, Teacher of Art  
Mr. Kevin Wortman, Teacher of Students with Disabilities (Life Skills)

March 2018

## ♦ SECTION I ♦

## ART

## OVERVIEW

The art program at Pompton Lakes High School (PLHS) continues to thrive as teachers have created an environment that provides all students the opportunity to excel and succeed. With an inclusive and student-centered philosophy at its core, the art program has experienced a dramatic increase in enrollment over the past five years. Key to the art program's vitality is blending an old school approach to teaching with 21st century technology integration. Working in a digital age with industry-appropriate technology has brought the program to a higher level. Integrated into art lessons on a daily basis, technology has proven to be as essential as any traditional tool. Students are now better equipped to create their work and move through the process to generate a high quality finished product that meets their expectations. Thus, students' artistic experiences have helped them gain a greater appreciation for the world around them and prepare for post-secondary career opportunities.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Senior Megan Martinelli was the grand prize winner for the Pride in Pompton Lakes Poster Contest, winning a Chromebook, while four other students received honorable mention recognition. All art students proudly participated in this community contest.
- Sophomore Matthew DeRitter used Adobe Illustrator to design the traditional holiday card sent out by the high school.
- Because of overwhelming student interest, the full-year Digital Imaging/Visual Communications course has expanded to two sections.
- In February 2018, the third annual Fine Arts Night took place to highlight student work.
- Digital Imaging/Visual Communications students created attractive promotional flyers to advertise Fine Arts Night. One flyer was selected for display on the school website and marquee.
- Seniors Megan Martinelli and Rejhan Sela have gained acceptance into the School of Visual Arts in New York City.
- Students will be participating in Art Start, an annual William Paterson University art show for high school students.
- Art teachers and classes have collaborated with other disciplines on multiple projects.
- Junior Duncan Mara's photos have been featured in and made the cover of *Railpace Newsmagazine*. He recently wrote an article accompanied by photography featured in the February 2018 issue. Duncan's photography has also been featured in *Railfan & Railroad Magazine*.



*Senior Michael Milligan works in the iMac Lab to complete a project in Digital Imaging/Visual Communications.*

- The Advanced Art class is in the process of creating a large mural of a map of Pompton Lakes in the Life Skills classroom that will serve as a teaching aid for Life Skills students. The map is a collaborative effort enhanced with digital imaging to identify prominent places in Pompton Lakes.
- Students continue to create and submit work to the *Impact* literary magazine.
- Students and their faculty advisors continue to create and organize the *Pioneer* yearbook using the iMac Lab as an essential platform.

## MAIN GOALS

- To upgrade and increase the amount of technology, including iMac computers, to allow students to work with industry-standard tools;
- To continue to grow the art program to include relevant and quality curriculum offerings;
- To continue to integrate technology into all art classes;
- To prepare students for careers in art-related fields;
- To instill an appreciation for art and to teach students to discern how art influences them in everyday life;
- To create on a professional level by integrating industry-standard technology into two-dimensional and three-dimensional art via the iMac Lab;
- To integrate technology as a step in the creative process in order to enable students to create a product that meets their expectations while fulfilling project requirements; and
- To enhance student portfolio techniques and resources to include digital means to highlight student growth and achievement.

## ♦ SECTION II ♦

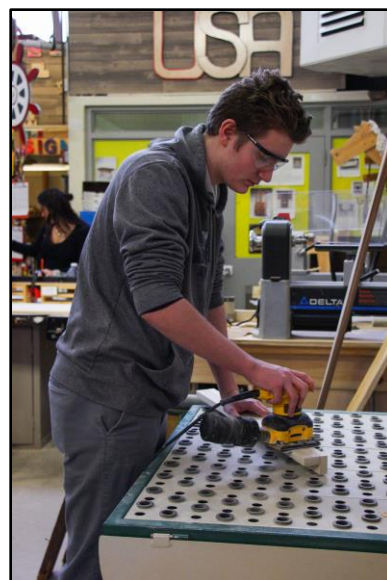
### FORM, FUNCTION, AND DESIGN

#### OVERVIEW

Form, Function, and Design classes promote an efficient, mature, and multifunctional learning and working environment. Students are actively engaged in classes while acquiring hands-on life skills that can potentially translate into viable visual arts careers. The Form, Function, and Design curriculum integrates applicable technologies to bring the creative process to a higher level and embraces fields such as industrial design, stagecraft, carpentry, and cabinetry. Overall, the skills and technology associated with Form, Function, and Design ensure that students enjoy 21st century learning experiences and become equipped with practical life competencies.

#### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Seven recent graduates have earned apprenticeships through the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE); PLHS anticipates four to six new apprentices in 2018.
- Three recent graduates are currently majoring in set design in college; several current students plan to attend a four-year college for stagecraft.
- Students have created projects for classroom use, including a teacher podium, storage bookcase, and chair, along with many other smaller-scale projects.
- Form, Function, and Design 2 students are building monikers (illuminated decorative screens) for the Jazz Band.
- Students have built sets for the fall drama and the spring musical, including six free-standing structures.



*Junior Michael Winnans works on a project in Form, Function, and Design 2.*

#### MAIN GOALS

- To develop a set design program to further develop students' ability to explore the field as a viable career opportunity;
- To expand the technological aspects of Form, Function, and Design classes by linking to the curriculum of Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and Robotics classes as a STEM initiative and introduction to industrial design;
- To add CAD-ready desktop computers to the woodshop in order to achieve cross-curricular goals and STEM initiatives;
- To purchase, through grant or budget, a 3D laser engraver for shared use between the Form, Function, and Design, CAD, Robotics, and middle school programs;

- To maintain existing equipment and purchase new equipment to ensure a safe classroom environment and prepare students for post-secondary opportunities by allowing them to work with viable and up-to-date tools;
- To develop an initiative that would allow students to assist in the maintenance of equipment; and
- To expand curriculum offerings.



*Instructor Mr. Dennis DeCarlo and senior Austin Leone discuss the next step of Austin's project.*

## ◆ SECTION III ◆ MUSIC

### OVERVIEW

The Music Department is thriving by offering courses and giving performances that rival those of schools three times the size of ours. The music program currently offers Band, Chorus, High Tech Music, and AP Music Theory. In addition to offering its regular courses, the music program continues to give students the opportunity to explore the arts through two additional vocal ensembles, the marching band, the spring musical, and up to three different instrumental ensembles. Students are learning to interpret, collaborate, and master choral and instrumental music from all time periods and genres. Students continue to actively study in Band, Chorus, and High Tech Music. AP Music Theory has been reintroduced into the curriculum with students achieving scores as high as the maximum 5 (1-5 scale) on the national exam. In addition, High Tech Music students leave the course with a comfortable understanding of the recording arts and running sound that will benefit them after graduation.



*Members of the men's ensemble dazzle the audience at the holiday concert.*

### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Students participate in community performances throughout the year. The marching band has performed at the town's 9/11 remembrance ceremony and choir members have performed the National Anthem at multiple functions, both school and community-related. In addition, the marching band and choir have performed at the borough's annual Holiday Stroll event.
- Students are auditioning for the North Jersey Region I Honor Choir and Instrumental Ensembles. Seniors Rejhan Sela and Gaia Hutcheson were accepted to the North Jersey Region Honor Choir and Band respectively.
- Life Skills students have participated in the Men's ensemble; this year, sophomore Stephen Dornich gave a terrific performance in the holiday concert.
- Multiple students have gone on to top music institutions in the state and country, including Brian Kachur at the University of Michigan and Casey Ackerman at The College of New Jersey.
- This past fall season, the marching band experienced its highest enrollment in over a decade. Next year's enrollment is projected to be even higher.
- Alumnus Lucas Jeron (PLHS '13) graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a degree in Music Recording. His interest in this field stemmed from his High Tech Digital music class at PLHS.
- The music program has more than doubled in the past six years.
- The AP Music Theory class has had a resurgence and all students who have taken the exam have achieved a score of 3 or above.



- Students from the High Tech Music class assist instructor Mr. Chad Flynn in setting up and running recording equipment during live events such as the talent show and spring musical.

## MAIN GOALS

- To increase music staffing to accommodate enrollment as well as the need for additional course offerings and ensembles;
- To expand the music room as increased enrollment has caused a need for additional physical space;
- To convert the music room storage closet into a soundproof recording room for high-quality music production;
- To continue to purchase and refurbish new and old music equipment;
- To update and provide additional iMac computers based on growing need;
- To bridge the gap between middle school and high school marching band, band, and chorus; and
- To expand curriculum offerings.



*Senior AP Music Theory student Jillian Messineo composes original music using an iMac computer.*

**To access and view additional photos and accompanying information, please select (Ctrl+Click) the following link:**

**<https://sites.google.com/plps-k12.org/innovationinthearts-plhs/home>**

