

# Course Overview Contemporary Crafts

Content Area: **Performing Arts**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **35 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## School Mission Statement

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The mission of Chartertech is to provide artists the opportunity to blend principles of artistic expression with cutting-edge technology, so artists will excel in academic, career, and civic pursuits and contribute to the harmony and productivity of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Artistic integration:** Performing arts will be accessible to all artists as a skill and content area and will serve as a vehicle for imparting, enlivening, and motivating excellence in all academic topics, as well as providing a platform for learning multicultural appreciation and empathy, not just tolerance.

**Technological integration:** Technology will serve as the foundation for instructional delivery systems leading to knowledge acquisition, concept understanding, and skill mastery in all academic subjects. Technology will not be studied as a separate entity but infused into the very fabric of educational pursuits, exactly as it occurs in the business world. Artists will be prepared to compete in the modern workplace or post-secondary institution.

*"Education has always been torn between vocational and utilitarian purposes on one hand and creative and holistic purposes on the other... We are rapidly entering a world that is hard to imagine. By developing the problem-solving skills, creativity, and discipline required in the arts, artists can prepare for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."*

From Understanding How the Arts Contribute to Excellent Education

National Endowment for the Arts, 1991

## School Goals

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### Goals for Arts Education:

**Artists will learn the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to turn their passions and gifts in the arts into vocations or serious avocations.**

Objective 1: Each year, each artist will take two semesters (10 credits) of career-oriented training (80 minutes per day) in their artistic major.

Objective 2: Each marking period, each artist will perform or produce frequently, in diverse settings and for diverse audiences.

Objective 3: Artistic instruction will be integrated into the study of all academic subjects.

Objective 4: Each year, each artist will complete at least twenty after-school “lab” hours in their artistic major. These will constitute career-oriented service to the school and/or community, and demonstrate accomplishment of the NJCCCS crosscutting workplace readiness standards.

**Goal for Technology:**

**Chartertech will model the technology-intense workplace and artists will be able to compete successfully and perform well in a technology-intense workplace.**

Objective 5: Each artist will routinely use technology in a workplace-like manner to acquire, analyze, communicate, and present information in every subject.

Objective 6: Each artist will have access to a computer every day, every class so that automated sources will be the main conduit for educational content.

Objective 7: All administrative and instructional functions of the school will be supported by the most modern technology available.

**Goals for Academic Achievement:**

**Artists will apply themselves in the serious pursuit of knowledge and skills, especially skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication.**

Objective 8: Each year, and to be promoted to the next grade each artist will pass five credits in English, Health, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, and PE/Health. Between grades 9-12 artists will also complete 1 year of Spanish.

Objective 9: In each academic subject, each year, each artist will complete a significant project that involves critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and communication skills, and which demonstrates cross-content workplace readiness skills.

Objective 10: Each year artists will develop a artist resume to guide his/her academic and artistic studies and to document his/her academic and artistic accomplishments. This work will be done under the mentorship of the faculty in the artist’s artistic major.

Objective 11: Academic instruction in all subjects will be highly cross-curricular, in accordance with curricula design and continuously improved by teachers, in compliance with the New Jersey Artist Learning Standards.

**Course Description**

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|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Course Title:</b>      | Contemporary Crafts |
| <b>Department:</b>        | Fine Art            |
| <b>Prerequisite:</b>      | N/A                 |
| <b>Number of Credits:</b> |                     |
| <b>Grade Level(s):</b>    | 9, 10, 11, 12       |

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|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Standards:</b>            | Aligned to New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Visual and Performing Arts   |
| <b>Description of Course</b> | Contemporary Crafts is a full year elective course in the fine arts with no prerequisites, open to all artists grades 9 through 12. This studio-based course invites artists to create and learn the trades of popular contemporary crafts, while engaging in discussion of culture and commerce. Artists will engage in a wide range of materials, processes, and creative opportunities. Projects and assignments will be rooted in fine art and design with a strong emphasis on the communities and cultures in which these techniques have emerged. Artists will create and keep a crafting journal that includes notes, written reflections of notes and history, and sketchings/preparation for full projects. |

## Overview & Pacing

| Unit #             | Major Content   | Expected Time         |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Unit 1: Fiber Arts | Unit 1, Fiber Arts, introduces artists to three main creative processes of weaving, crocheting, and embroidery. Artists will learn the basic skills and tools of these fiber crafts. Artists will learn to set up a weaving board and consider weaving's role throughout history from Renaissance looms to current macrame trends. Artists will learn the basic concept of crocheting and use a working vocabulary of various stitches and pattern terms. Artists will be able to successfully navigate reading patterns and other learning diagrams. Additionally, artists will learn the basic stitches of embroidery and needle crafts. After learning the beginner techniques to each of these crafts, artists will have the opportunity to relate one fully rendered project in their choice of fiber art. The main materials used in this unit will be yarn, fabric, embroidery hoops and floss, and crochet hooks. | Approximately 9 weeks |
| Unit 2: Paper Arts | Unit 2, Paper Arts, is an exploration into the many art forms using/making paper. Artists will learn the papermaking process using organic materials  | Approximately 9 weeks |

|                                   |  |                       |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
|                                   | and household appliances. As a class, we will discuss the importance of materiality and compare and contrast reading in traditional formats, i.e. books and magazines and today's e-readers and scrolling through online feeds. Artists will discover the art of quilling and create fine art pieces using this form.  |                       |
| Unit 3: Jewelry Design            | Unit 3, Jewelry Design, allows artists to create beads using recycled paper or polymer clay. Artists will identify the social, historical, and cultural intersections of jewelry status, while also learning how to draft designs for wearable art. Artists will use a variety of materials to explore everything from casted pendants to colorful friendship bracelets. Artists will be required to complete fully rendered draft drawings and plans for jewelry designs that take the Principles of Design and color theory into meaningful consideration. | Approximately 8 weeks |
| Unit 4: Recycled and Upcycled Art | Unit 4, Upcycled and Recycled Art, wraps up the course with an in-depth look at artists who are currently working in sustainable sources and processes. As a class we will revisit the papermaking process and identify ways in which this process can be borrowed and adapted to other art practices and movements. Artists will be encouraged to create works of art that not only appeal to the aesthetics but act with functionality. We will consider the "art object" and compare and contrast with the "reimagined and reusable object."              | Approximately 9 weeks |

