

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CURRICULUM: SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ART

The National School of the Arts offers the widest range of ART subjects available to secondary schools. The art subjects are taken as follows:

Grade 8 and 9

All learners will complete modules in Ceramics, Drawing, Painting, printmaking, Sculpture, Jewellery Design, Photography, Design Theory & Visual Arts Theory.

Grades 10, 11 & 12

Learners are required to choose ONE of: Two Dimensional Design, Three Dimensional Design or Visual Arts. Each of the chosen subjects has an extensive theory component which is compulsory.

General Information:

The school also boasts a wonderful art gallery, in one of the school buildings designed by Gerhard Moerdyk, which is used to exhibit the learners' work as well as for public exhibitions.

DANCE

GRADE 8 & 9

Practical Work

All Grade 8 learners must do Classical Ballet and Spanish Dance.

Theoretical Work

All Grade 8 and 9 learners must do Dance Theory.

GRADE 10 & 11

Practical Work

The new FET syllabus requires ALL learners to do African Dance as their Minor dance form (prescribed by the National Curriculum). All learners will do Choreography, Classical Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Spanish Dance and Jazz Dance.

Theoretical Work

All learners must do History of Dance, Music (Appreciation) and Anatomy.

GRADE 12

Practical Work

ALL learners will do **African Dance as their Minor dance form** (prescribed by the National Curriculum) and then they must choose **ONE** dance form as their **Major dance form** from the list below. All learners must do **Choreography**.

ONE dance form may be from the list below:-

- Classical Ballet
- Contemporary Dance
- Jazz Dance
- Spanish Dance

Theoretical Work

All learners must do History of Dance, Music (Appreciation) and Anatomy.

DRAMA

Emphasis is placed on performance and learners are provided with as many performance opportunities as possible.

Each year the school presents a major production in a professional theatre and at least two additional productions at the school. In addition, there is an annual showcase in which every drama learner is involved in performance.

Practical training includes:-

- Acting
- Voice
- Movement
- Physical theatre
- Stagecraft
- Mime
- Poetry
- Workshop
- Directing

However, there is also a large **theory component**, which covers the study of :-

- Play texts & their contexts
 - Theatre history & design
 - Arts Administration
 - Stagecraft
 - Poetry
 - Voice theory
 - Ritual
 - Mythology
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MUSIC

Learners have the option of taking either the classical or contemporary music stream.

Learners must do **TWO** music subjects which are divided up as follows:-

MUSIC 1:

First instrument together with the corresponding Theory component.

At least a Grade 7 Royal Schools or Trinity level must be reached by Grade 12.

Learners also need to play and write the practical and theory examinations from these Examination Bodies:-

Grade 10 - Grade 5

Grade 11 - Grade 6

Grade 12 - Grade 7

The above is compulsory. Failure to do these exams each year will result in a failure in Grade 12.

MUSIC 2:

Second Instrument together with the following theoretical subjects:-

- History of Music
- Form Analysis
- Theory
- Harmony
- Composition and Arranging
- Improvisation

- Aural Training

Both of the practical music subjects, depending on choice of stream, include a chamber component or band ensemble.

Learners who play an orchestral instrument are required to play in the school orchestra. All contemporary stream learners will be placed in a band and are required to perform weekly, as well as three performances during the year at an outside venue.

Vocal learners have to sing in the vocal ensemble.

A large emphasis is placed on performance and practical work. With this in mind, opportunities are created for learners to perform continually.
