

**KENSINGTON**  
**CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

**STUDENT COURSE**  
**AND SCHEDULING**  
**GUIDE**

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PRINCIPAL

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## WELCOME TO KCAPA!!!!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (KCAPA). This handbook provides essential information about course offerings, scheduling, and graduation requirements. At KCAPA, we strive for excellence in both academics and the arts. To foster a positive and supportive learning environment that prepares students for college and career success, we expect all students to attend school regularly and punctually, come prepared for every class, and conduct themselves appropriately. We encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education by communicating with school staff, monitoring their child's progress, and getting involved in school activities. We are committed to keeping you informed and working together to ensure your child's success.



Stay Connected!						

**Please visit our website and other feeds for KCAPA-specific events, performances, and updates.**

## KEY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

Patricia McDermott, Principal <a href="mailto:pmcdermott@philasd.org">pmcdermott@philasd.org</a>	Inez Vega, Secretary <a href="mailto:ivega@philasd.org">ivega@philasd.org</a>
Chloe Leech Assistant Principal <a href="mailto:cleech@philasd.org">cleech@philasd.org</a>	Saniyyah Mapson Climate Manager <a href="mailto:smapson@philasd.org">smapson@philasd.org</a>
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Debra Simons, Guidance Counselor 9th and 10th Grade <a href="mailto:dsimonds@philasd.org">dsimonds@philasd.org</a>	Mildred Guerrier, Guidance Counselor 11th and 12th Grade <a href="mailto:mguerrier@philasd.org">mguerrier@philasd.org</a>
Brianne Gallagher, English Language Liason <a href="mailto:bbgallagher@philasd.org">bbgallagher@philasd.org</a>	Erin Smith, Special Education Compliance Monitor <a href="mailto:erinsmith@philasd.org">erinsmith@philasd.org</a>
Katherine Smith, Director of Academic Affairs Technology Coordinator Science School-Based Teacher Leader <a href="mailto:kathesmith@philasd.org">kathesmith@philasd.org</a>	Sophia Lianny Bilingual Counseling Assistant (Spanish) <a href="mailto:slianny@philasd.org">slianny@philasd.org</a>

### **Learning Environment**

KCAPA is a college preparatory high school committed to fostering a positive learning environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and come prepared for each class with all necessary materials and supplies.

We encourage parents/guardians to monitor their child's progress through the [Parent Portal](#), accessible via the [SDP Family and Community Engagement](#) website.

Our ultimate goal is to equip all students with the academic, social, emotional, and professional skills needed for college and career success.

The following is our typical Academic Course Sequencing. This can be changed according to a student's needs:

**Academic Course Sequencing for 2025 - 2026**

**English**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
English 1	English 2	English 3	English 4

**Math**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade/Electives
Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra 2	N/A

**Social Studies**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
World History	United States History	African American History	Social Science

**Science**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade/Electives
Environmental Science	Biology	Chemistry	N/A

**Mandated Electives**

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Math and Personal Finance	Multidisciplinary Project
Intro to the Arts		Health Physical Education	

**Other Electives**

Crafts	Ceramics	Cultural Traditions in the Arts	atomy and Physiology
Botany	Survey of Literature	Introduction to Film History	ontemporary Issues
Contemporary Issues in Science	Survey of Law	Study Skills / Credit Recovery	

Please know that the classes chosen are subject to availability

### **Courses by Art Major and Grade**

<b>CTE</b>				
Grade	9th	10th	11th	12th
Credit 1	Intro to the Arts	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Credit 2	<i>Not Applicable</i>	Digital Media Production 1	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Credit 3	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	Digital Media Production 2	Digital Media Production 3

<b>Dance</b>				
Grade	9th	10th	11th	12th
Credit 1	Intro to the Arts	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Credit 2	<i>Not Applicable</i>	Dance 1	Dance 2	Dance 3 Honors

<b>Musical Theatre</b>				
Grade	9th	10th	11th	12th
Credit 1	Intro to the Arts	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Credit 2	<i>Not Applicable</i>	Musical Theater	Musical Theater	Musical Theater

<b>Visual Art</b>				
Grade	9th	10th	11th	12th
Credit 1	Intro to the Arts	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
Credit 2	<i>Not Applicable</i>	Art 1	Art 2	Art 3 Honors

### **Academic Requirements for Graduation**

A 12th-grade student shall graduate if they:

- Successfully complete a Multidisciplinary Project
- Earns a total of 23.5 credits, which includes:
  - 4 in English
  - 3 in Mathematics
  - 3 in Science
  - 3 in Social Studies
  - 1 in African American History
  - 2 in World Language
  - 2 in Arts and Humanities
  - 1 in Physical Education
  - 0.5 in Health

- o 4 in Electives
  - One Elective must be a college preparatory Mathematics or Science course or an Advanced Placement course.
- Complete all requirements of 1 of 5 ACT 158 Graduation Pathways

### **Promotion Policy (SDP)**

Promotion from grade to grade should be based on credits earned:

- Promotion from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade – 5 credits
- Promotion from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade – 11 credits
- Promotion from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade – 17.5 credits

The School District of Philadelphia has mandated that a student needs 23.5 credits to graduate. All students are required to complete a multidisciplinary project as well, as part of the graduation requirement. This project is embedded in the English curriculum. **Failure to complete the Multidisciplinary Project will prevent a student from graduating.**

No student will graduate, participate in the ceremony, or be issued a KCAPA diploma without completing 23.5 credits in the appropriate courses. **This is non-negotiable.** If a student elects to take credits outside of KCAPA, appropriate documentation of the completion of the course must be presented by the date grades close, in order for students to participate in Graduation.

### **COURSE SELECTION**

In February, students will have the opportunity to select courses for the upcoming school year. This will allow families to discuss course options with teachers after reviewing student progress reports. Students must log in to the Student Information System (SIS) to select their desired courses. A staff member will review course selections with each student, and the Academic Office will make every effort to accommodate student and parent requests. Please note that due to limited class sizes, it may not be possible to fulfill all requests.

It is crucial to understand that there will be no changes to student schedules after the second week of school.

## **AP/HONORS CLASSES**

Currently, AP and Honors classes are offered in a variety of subjects. Honors classes are designed for students who demonstrate high achievement, and these classes move at an advanced pace. Advanced Placement (AP) courses use the curriculum administered under the auspices of the College Board. Teachers are certified to teach AP courses through specialized training. These courses prepare a student to take the Advanced Placement Examination in a particular subject in May. Success in the exam may result in the student earning a college credit.

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES**

Dual Enrollment courses are available to our academically gifted 11th and 12th-grade students. This program enables these students to simultaneously attend KCAPA High School and enroll in college-level courses at a local college or university. This valuable opportunity is offered at no cost to qualifying students. To be eligible, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA, successfully pass the Accuplacer test, demonstrate excellent attendance, and possess the ability to balance the rigorous demands of both high school and college coursework.

## **ARTS MAJOR CHANGE POLICY**

KCAPA students commit to a specific major upon enrollment. While we understand that students may wish to change majors, a formal process must be followed.

To request a major change, students must:

- Submit a written request: The request should specify the current and desired major. Major change forms are available in the main office and require teacher and parent/guardian signatures.
- Obtain approval from current Art Major Teacher(s): Students must have their current art teacher's approval to be considered for a major change.
- Maintain passing grades: Students must pass all current art classes to be eligible for a major change.
- No major change will be approved for students failing an arts class.
- Students must be accepted by the arts teacher for the new major in order to complete the process.

## **GRADING POLICY/CLASSROOM POLICIES**

The School District of Philadelphia has an established grading policy that will be adhered to by all teachers. Teachers will have multiple opportunities to evaluate student progress using a variety of assessment strategies. Grades include the following components.

Component	Weight
Tests	40%
Performance-Based Learning	30%
Classwork	20%
Homework	10%

Note: "Performance-Based Learning" includes but is not limited to projects, labs, research assignments, presentations, etc.

All grades will be recorded in the district-provided electronic gradebook in Infinite Campus, the Student Information System.

## **GRADING SCALE**

Alpha/Numerical Equivalency Chart below reflects the numerical mark assigned to each letter grade and applies to all subject areas:

ALPHA	NUM	GPA	ALPHA	NUM	GPA	ALPHA	NUM	GPA
A+	100-97	4.0	A	96-93	4.0	A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3	B	86-83	3.0	B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3	C	76-73	2.0	C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3	D	66-63	1.0	D-	62-60	0.7
			F	59-50	0.0			

## **PSATS/SAT/KEYSTONE**

The School District of Philadelphia is providing PSAT testing for all students in grades 9 and SATs for all students in grades 10 and 11. All students in grade 11 are required to take the exam. Passing of the Keystone Exams will also apply to Graduation Pathways 1 and 2.



## **How to Resolve a Concern at KCAPA HS - Whom to Contact!**

### **ACADEMIC CONCERNS (Grades/Assignments)**

- Step 1 – Contact the Teacher
- Step 2 – Contact the Assistant Principal or Principal – please note, that if you have not contacted the teacher first, the Assistant Principal and/or Principal will not discuss grades.

### **ROSTER CONCERNS (Credits, requests for classes, etc)**

- Step 1 – Contact the Guidance Counselors
- Step 2 – Contact the Roster Chair

*Please note: requests for specific teachers or change of teachers must be made directly to the Principal; however, they can rarely be honored because of the challenges of our roster.*

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION CONCERNS: (IEPs, Accommodations, etc)**

- Step 1 – Contact the Teacher
- Step 2 – Contact the Special Ed Liaison
- Step 3 – Contact the Assistant Principal and/or Principal

### **BEHAVIOR HEALTH CONCERNS / COLLEGE APPLICATIONS / SATS / TRANSCRIPTS**

- Step 1 – Contact the Counselor
  - Ms. Guierre for 11th and 12th Grade
  - Ms. Simons for 9th and 10th Grade
- Step 2 – Contact the Assistant Principal