

HSArts Community Newsletter - Sep 8

Brian Nieh • 13 days ago • Thursday, Sep 8 at 8:00 PM • San Francisco High School of the Arts



San Francisco High School of the Arts Family Newsletter | Sep 8, 2022

FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Important Dates

Sep 9 Mid-Autumn Festival

Sep 18 Family Day

Back-to-School Night!

Things haven't slowed down on campus all summer and we are pleased to have everyone back on campus! While our summer programs were in full swing, HSArts teachers and staff were in and out of the building planning for our new school year.

Head of School's Message

It is the fourth week into the semester. I am happy to see our students are all motivated to learn and having fun with their new and old friends. This is looking like a great year ahead!

- Dr. Sherry Zhang

Head of School
San Francisco High School of the
Arts



School started just a few weeks ago with a fun, all-school camping trip to build community spirit. Our all-important Orientation Day brought our students, new and returning, back onto campus. Our Back to School Night was well attended by parents and guardians as our teachers shared their new plans for this upcoming school year. We are especially excited to welcome our new staff members to our building.

Some exciting changes this year include adding to our school a new fifth-grade class and our dual enrollment program with Academy of Arts University for our Visual Arts students.

ACADEMICS



Teacher Spotlight

Mr. David Gallagher

David Gallagher is a native San Franciscan, graduating high school from St. Ignatius College Preparatory. He holds a Speech Communication degree from SFSU and a master's degree in Educational Administration from National University, as well as English Learner Authorization and Cross Cultural, Language, and Academic Development Certificates. He has taught grades 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th, and was recently a K-8 administrator in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Mr. Gallagher is very excited to join the HSArts community and to promote learning in creative ways.

Academic Class Spotlight: British Literature

by Mr. David Gallagher, English Teacher

In British Literature class so far this year, we have read two works, Beowulf and The Canterbury Tales.



Beowulf is cited as one of the most important works of Old English literature and is a great way to introduce students to epic poetry. Beowulf is estimated to have been written between 975 and 1025 CE. In class we discussed the

definition of a hero or good leader versus that of a monster and related these qualities to contemporary heroes, leader. Even though the culture in Beowulf seems far removed from modern times, the poem explores universal themes that are still relevant today. Next, we began our study of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales which perfectly captures a particular time period. When Geoffrey Chaucer wrote The Canterbury Tales, society was no longer divided into lords and peasants; professions were coming into existence and suddenly skilled craftsmen were making enough money to afford a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral to visit the shrine of Thomas Becket. As I write this, the class is currently reading "The General Prologue" when Chaucer introduces his twenty-nine pilgrims, describing their ranks in society and also making fun of them in the process. They enjoy reading the descriptions of the medieval professions and Chaucer's opinions of them.

I enjoy teaching this piece of Medieval Literature because Chaucer understood that who is telling the story matters. In the same way, the stories we choose to tell and how we tell them tells something about us. As a side assignment to reading The Canterbury Tales, I set aside a day in class for my students to think of a place that many different types of people gather such as a supermarket or an airport and to think about, list, and describe the many different types of people who visit that place. Some of my students are very keen observers of human behavior.

ARTS

Exciting News for Visual Arts Students!

San Francisco High School of the Arts (HSArts) is proud to announce our new dual enrollment program in partnership with Academy of Art University (AAU). This opportunity is open to HSArts Visual Arts students in 11th or 12th Grade and qualifying 10th graders. While attending HSArts, participants have an exciting and unique opportunity to earn college credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree from AAU. Your successful completion of this dual enrollment program guarantees your acceptance into AAU upon HSArts graduation. AAU accepts AP credits earned while at HSArts.

All earned university credits in this program are also transferable to any other university. There are HSArts scholarships for the dual enrollment program available. For more information, please contact **our Admissions Team**.



Repertoire Spotlight: Flowery Hats

By Ms. Hanna Zhang, Dance Choreographer

During the Tang Dynasty, tea tasting was prevalent in the country. Every Spring, when new tea was picked, the palace would hold celebrations with tea art performances. The tea-picking dance was a special dance in the Tang Dynasty.

Cheerful and gorgeous in costumes, this dance expresses the joy of singing and dancing when picking new tea in the royal tea garden. In the 14th year of the Republic of China (1925), the tea-picking dance was introduced to Jiangxi Province. Locals formed a folk tea-picking dance team, performing three common tea-picking movements: swinging a fan, picking tea, and presenting a basket.



Flowery Hats is one of the dances for our high school dance students and they are already almost finished learning this dance. With lively pace and light movements, girls hold tea-picking hats and wear embroidered shoes, reflecting the graceful and lively beauty of young girls. This dance is full of creativity and storyline. The sun hats in the hands run through the entire dance. The girls sometimes laugh and play in the fields, and sometimes dance with hats. Please look for this dance at our Winter Wonders showcase in December!

ADMISSIONS

We're open for visits!

School has started, and it's the perfect time to visit our campus! Whether it's a tour around school, a trial class with our arts programs, or a shadowing day to experience the day in the life of an HSArts student, we welcome everyone who's interested in finding out why HSArts may be a perfect fit for your child. For more information, visit **our admissions page** to RSVP, and discover all there is to offer.

STUDENT LIFE



Successful Overnight Field Trip Kicks off School Year

Who starts the new school year with a 3-day camping trip? We do!

We kicked off the new school year with a fun-filled 3-day camping trip! With visits to The Mystery Spot, Galleries in Carmel, the Natural Beach State Park, and BBQing our students and teachers built a great foundation for teamwork as well as lasting memories!

Thanks to all the parents who drove to make this trip possible!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep 9** Mid-Autumn School Celebration
- Sep 18** Family Day in Santa Cruz Mountains
- Sep 29** Open House

Communication is essential and we strive to connect with our students, parents, and families throughout the school year. We will continue reaching out to you with this weekly newsletter. We also encourage you to visit our website and follow our social pages including Facebook and Instagram for announcements, information, and celebrations.



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