

Mira Costa High School's

MEDIA ARTS PROGRAM

*Nationally Award-Winning
Video Production and Broadcast Journalism Classes*

FAQs

Why should my student enroll in the Media Arts program?

The program provides students with a cutting-edge experience that prepares them for a future in film, TV and emerging media and gives them a leg up as they apply to colleges. The courses also satisfy the Visual and Performing Arts requirement for admission to UC and CSU schools.

Those students who have ever watched a movie and wanted to know how they did certain edits or special effects, or would like to learn how to make their own YouTube videos, are perfect candidates. The skills learned in the program go beyond a potential career in filmmaking by expanding students' writing skills and by refining their analytical and critical thinking.

What is the difference between Video Production and Broadcast Journalism?

VIDEO PRODUCTION -- This class offers a fun, yet professional, setting where students develop the skills and etiquette needed for success in their first year of film school. Students write their own original scripts and produce their own projects. Students are responsible for using and maintaining professional camera and editing equipment.

Video Production 1-2 is **OPEN TO ALL INCOMING FRESHMEN**, as well as other grade levels, and has no prerequisites. Video Production 3-4 is an intermediate production class emphasizing more advanced cinematography and directing, and Video Production 5-6/7-8 offers more sophisticated course work focusing on writing, directing and producing.

BROADCAST JOURNALISM – This is an elite class open to sophomores, juniors and seniors only. In Broadcast Journalism (BP), students put their knowledge and training to use in producing a live, national award-winning newscast, “The Mustang Morning News.”

“The Mustang Morning News” is produced twice a week and is broadcast to the entire MCHS campus. The MMN staff strives to produce professional-quality work and have been recognized for excellence in journalism by a variety of organizations including the National Scholastic Press Association/Journalism Education Association and the Student Television Network.

Students are using cutting-edge equipment and get experience with public speaking, teamwork, news writing, web design and more. They travel to national journalism conventions in Philadelphia, St. Louis and Washington, DC to compete with students across the country and learn from industry professionals

Is it too late to register for Video Production or Broadcast Journalism if my student has already signed up for fall classes?

It is NOT too late to sign up for Video Production as an incoming 8th grader. Parents should contact their child's Education Advisor (EA) to make any class schedule changes.

If the media arts program helps prepare students for college work in journalism, film and media, what kinds of colleges have accepted the program's graduates?

A partial list of schools attended by our alumni include: USC, UCLA, NYU, Northwestern, Loyola Marymount University, Chapman, Georgetown, Boston, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, CSU Northridge and San Francisco State University, among many, many others.

Many of these students are now working as news producers, television executives, directors and editors.

How does this course differ from the media arts programs my child had in Middle School?

Our program offers ample state-of-the art, working equipment that allows students to work on their projects without the fear of being unable to gain access to equipment. All students taking Video Production 1-2 will complete the course with several projects of which they can be proud.

What kind of equipment do the students have access to?

Students use professional digital video cameras and sound equipment and edit on Mac-based Final Cut Studio edit suites. Additional equipment includes portable lighting packages, grip gear and dollies. Our 2600 square foot Media Arts Lab includes 15 editing suites, a sound stage, a live television studio and a sound recording booth.

Where can I go to get additional information and learn more about the Media Arts program?

The Media Arts program has an outstanding website that features in-depth information about the program, as well as sample work by students. That website address is www.mcmediarts.org.

To find out more about the Broadcast Journalism program and watch episodes of the "The Mustang Morning News," please visit the website at www.mustangmorningnews.com.

What is the Mira Costa Media Arts Foundation (MCMAF)?

Founded in 2003, the Mira Costa Media Arts Foundation has helped maintain and improve the media arts program with financial and professional support from the community. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

The Foundation is a group of parents, students and other community members whose purpose is to promote and support academic excellence in the media arts at MCHS. The Foundation further strives to nurture relationships with the entertainment industry and local community members to enhance the artistic, professional and personal growth of media arts students.

For more information, or to volunteer, please visit the MCMAF website at www.mcmaf.org.

See Media Arts advisor, Mr. Hernandez, in room 108 to see the Media Arts Lab or get more information.