

The Arts at O'Neill

An Intensive Program in Performing and Visual Arts

Performing Arts Overview

The Performing Arts Program at O'Neill C.V.I. was first offered in 1987; since its humble beginnings it has developed a reputation of excellence known across Canada. Students are given many opportunities to experience and develop performance skills in the performance areas offered at O'Neill. Students are not only encouraged to develop skills in their performance major but in the other Performing Arts areas available at O'Neill. One of the key philosophies at O'Neill is to experience all of the Arts. O.C.V.I. offers Performing Arts courses and co-curricular activities in dance, drama and vocal/instrumental music.

The Performing Arts staff are all experienced, talented and dedicated teachers who themselves are performers. To enrich the students' learning experience students will attend concerts, clinics and workshops led by professional performers and clinicians at school and on school excursions. Each Performing Arts class consists of studies designed to develop the technical skills required to perform at a very high level. Students will also study the appropriate theory and history for each discipline they study. Through these intensive studies, O'Neill Performing Arts students develop confidence and leadership skills that are life skills, essential for success in all aspects of study. Also, the Arts at O'Neill program now offers the Specialist High Skills Major (S.H.S.M.) option, open to selected students, provides these particularly keen student arts students with the opportunity to work under the guidance of professional artists in a variety of disciplines. The O'Neill Collegiate Performing Arts Program delivers a truly unique high school experience!

Dance Program

The O'Neill Dance Program covers a variety of styles, theories and techniques. Students train in class to enhance their performance and technical skills, while also having the opportunity to dance on numerous teams in specific styles. This program focuses strongly on physical wellness, including prevention and care of injuries. Students develop an understanding of the human body in relation to dance training, and learn how to apply it to their own individual abilities. In the senior years, Jazz, Modern and Ballet become the primary focus, preparing students for both performance and post-secondary studies. O'Neill's Dance Program encourages its students to recognize their talents, and strive to reach their fullest potential.



Drama Program

The Performing Arts drama program is designed as a four-year program. Each year the program is growing and new ventures are undertaken. The more active a student becomes, the more they will get out of the program.

The program starts in grade nine with a course designed to introduce students to the basic elements of theatre. It starts curriculum heavy as the students must learn the fundamentals such as staging, vocabulary, simple acting techniques, and class collaboration. In October the touring musical will be auditioned. The class will then run rehearsals until mid January. At that point the class will tour to elementary schools and end with an evening performance for parents and friends.

In grade ten we shift into a more intense study of drama and theatre. In this course more emphasis is placed on individual learning highlighted by student monologues. The main production of this class will be a straight drama. The show will be shown over two evenings. The year-end project has the students assuming a position of a theatre company and preparing a proper in-depth proposal for a professional show. This project prepares them for the grade eleven course.



Grade Eleven is the highlight for many students with the production of the large musical. Professional in nature, the grade eleven class replicates the process a live theatre would undertake while producing a show. A strong school commitment is witnessed at this point, with many different teachers and students contributing to the overall success.

Grade Twelve again focuses more on the individual but is still performance based. This course will introduce students to professionals in the community while witnessing live theatre and partaking in workshops. Students are challenged to push and expand their skills through scene study, one act plays and monologue work. As well this course will feature a larger amount of theory in order to prepare students for post secondary studies.

Vocal Program

Students learn healthy vocal technique through various styles of music such as folk, classical, musical theatre and jazz. In addition to singing repertoire, students learn music theory, music history and develop sight singing and ear training skills. Class work is based on the *Ministry of Ontario Curriculum Documents*. In addition to the regular vocal music classes, students may, at the grade 11 level, audition to be in a *Musical Theatre* class or in the *Senior Chamber Choir* class. All vocal students are required to perform in a choir at the appropriate level. The more active a student becomes, the more they will get out of the program. Students involved in the instrumental, dance and drama program are also invited to participate in the choir program. At every level many challenges and possibilities are available to further develop musical skills and techniques.

Choral Ensembles

The *O'Neill Junior Choir* is a vocal ensemble open to all music and performing arts students in grade 9 and 10. This ensemble rehearses twice a week. Students in grades 9 through 12 can audition to sing with *The O'Neill Women's or Men's Choir*. This ensemble rehearses twice a week, as well. Students at the grade 11 and 12 level are eligible to take the chamber choir credit course upon completion of a successful audition. *The Senior Chamber Choir* rehearses during class time and before school. This ensemble performs university level repertoire and is highly regarded nationally.



Vocal Jazz Ensembles

Students are very fortunate to have access to a vocal jazz sound system complete with 15 high calibre microphones. Our two ensembles have auditioned singers and rhythms sections. Grade 9 and 10 students audition for *Jazz Express*, while grades 10 through 12 audition for *The Jazz Disciples*, the most senior group in terms of ability. The choirs attend the Ontario Vocal Festival annually where they perform, are exposed to other ensembles and have the opportunity to work with experienced clinicians who bring a wealth of choral knowledge to the students.

Instrumental Program

The instrumental courses offered in the Performing Arts program at O'Neill combine solo, small ensemble and technical work geared towards each individual student. Students entering the program have a skill level unique to themselves and the instructors at O'Neill strive to challenge each student to foster growth as an artist. Students will also study theory and history of music as stated in the *Ministry of Ontario Curriculum Documents*. Performing Arts students will also research and present information to the class in each year of study. All instrumental students are required to perform in a concert band at the appropriate level. The more active a student becomes, the more they will get out of the program.





Concert Band Program

All instrumental students are required to perform in the concert band program at the appropriate level. Students involved in the vocal, dance and drama program are also invited to participate in the concert band program. Two out of the three Concert Bands at O'Neill are non-auditioned groups. At every level many challenges and possibilities are available to further develop musical skills and techniques. Students at the grade 11 and 12 level are eligible to take the concert band credit course upon completion of a successful audition. Each ensemble performs at a number of concerts at O'Neill Collegiate through the year, attend the Ontario Band Festival and receive clinics from professional clinicians. O'Neill is unique in that the Junior Concert Band is an ensemble solely for the grade 9 students and students progress at a very fast pace. O'Neill's Senior Wind Ensemble is considered to perform at a college level, the Symphonic Winds at a Senior high school level. Both ensembles explore a wide variety of music ranging from contemporary concert band music to folk songs to transcriptions. Rehearsals are mandatory and are after school one night each week.

Instrumental Jazz Band Program

O'Neill's three instrumental jazz ensembles are auditioned groups that are eligible to all Music and Performing Arts students. Students at the grade 11 and 12 level are eligible to take the senior jazz band credit course upon completion of a successful audition. This senior ensemble performs at a very high level and is recognized through out Canada for its accomplishments. Students in the intermediate and junior jazz ensembles also perform at levels that are well above average. All ensembles explore a wide range of jazz styles ranging from swing to contemporary jazz forms. They also explore the concepts surrounding improvisation. O'Neill C.V.I. is proud to host the Southern Ontario Jazz Band Festival every year. O'Neill's Jazz Ensembles not only participate in this festival but run the event.

Performing Arts Council (P.A.C.)

"There's something wonderfully rewarding in being part of an effort that does make a difference."

Author: Brian O'Connell

P.A.C. is a student-run group that encourages growth within the Performing Arts department. It presents unique leadership opportunities for its' members to organize and facilitate events throughout the calendar year. Students gain valuable experience leading portfolios ranging from stage management to advertising and promotion, event planning to community programming.

O'Neill Performing Arts Council is committed to the celebration of our unique talents, spirit and diversity. Events like our Christmas Semi Formal help create an atmosphere of friendship where all students of the arts can come together to celebrate their hard work and dedication to excellence.

P.A.C is proud to support the continuing growth and development of the arts programs at O'Neill.

Performing Arts Teachers

Mr. Bronson - Department Head & Instrumental Music

Ms. Collins - Vocal Music

Ms. McClacherty - Instrumental Music

Mrs. Hunter - Instrumental Music

Ms. Allison - Drama and Vocal Music

Mr. Rabjohn - Drama

Miss Van Gijn - Dance

Mrs. Easton - Vocal Music

Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Groups

Choirs - Senior Chamber Choir, Women's Choir, Men's Choir, Junior Choir

Instrumental Jazz - OJ1, OJ2, OJ3, Jazz Combo

Vocal Jazz - Jazz Disciples, Jazz Express

Drama - Sears Festival, Improv, Sound and Lighting, Young Playwrights

Dance - Lyrical, Jazz and Hip Hop Clubs





The Arts at O'Neill

An Intensive Program in Performing and Visual Arts

A UNIQUE CONCEPT IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

Featuring

A REGULAR ACADEMIC PROGRAM ENRICHED

WITH CONCENTRATION IN

INSTRUMENTAL, VOCAL MUSIC, DANCE and DRAMA

Beginning at the GRADE 9 LEVEL

For all O'NEILL AREA and OUT OF AREA STUDENTS

AND

VISUAL ARTS

Beginning at the GRADE 9 LEVEL *for* O'NEILL AREA STUDENTS

AND

At the GRADE 10 LEVEL *for* OUT OF AREA STUDENTS

Performing Arts Overview

Application Due Date:

Friday January 13, 2012

