

Dr. Artesius Miller  
Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Dale Smith  
Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Greg Leaphart  
Director of Operations



**UTOPIAN**  
ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS  
CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK

Ms. Pamela Dingle  
Executive Director

Mrs. Ebonne Craft  
Director of Arts Education

Mrs. Elisha Byers  
Director of Strategic  
Initiatives

## **UAFA Middle School** **Creative Arts Department Course Catalog**

Utopian Academy for the Arts Middle School has a multitude of established partners including, the Georgia Film Academy, Trilith Studios, True Colors Theatre Company, Toon Boom Animation, High Museum, Alliance Theatre, Morehouse College, Story Arts Collective, The Steve & Marjorie Harvey Foundation, and a plethora of global industry partnerships.

### **Audio Visual/Broadcast (Journalism)**

**Grades: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>**

**Teaching Artist: Ms. Amaya Ash**

*Audio Visual/Broadcast (Journalism)* exposes students to a variety of journalistic-style writing to learn about the functions and operations of print, electronic and on-line news media, the relationship of journalism to advertising, public relations and telecommunications, principles of broadcast writing and reporting. Students also will learn to shoot and edit videotapes to prepare for TV news reports. Students will also be exposed to the following elements of audio production; include videography, video editing, film editing, audio recording, audio mixing, sound reinforcement, sound design, dialog editing, lighting, directing, producing, still or animated computer graphics, special effects, voice talent, on-camera talent, production management and camera operation.

### **Computer Coding & Animation**

**Grades: 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Teaching Artist: Mr. Richard Walls**

*Computer Coding* focuses on computer science, music technology, web development, game design, and animation. Students will use Code.Org as the primary curriculum. Students will uncover important computer science concepts like variables, functions, lists, loops, throughout this curriculum students will learn to write code to create web designs and explore the world of animation. The students will also utilize the skills gained to create mobile game designs.

*Animation* focuses on building scholars' skills step by step – from the creation of basic storyboards and animatics through to advanced directing techniques of storytelling utilizing industry software Toon Boom Animation and Harmony Pro. Students develop skills in 2D character animation, 3D printing, expression of creativity in drawing, as well as designing and producing animation filmmaking.

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## Dance

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Mrs. Crystal DeVaughn-Marsh

*Dance* incorporates art and academics that help the students explore and expand their levels of vocabulary, history, technique, and choreography. Dance class gives students the opportunities to learn Ballet, Modern, Hip Hop, Jazz, African, and Tap. Students also get to experience a series of performances throughout the year that concludes with an end of the year recital. Utopian Academy for the Arts is the home to the national award-winning “Eagle Squad Dance Team”, a competitive dance team who has performed and gained recognition for their dominating creativity and choreography.

## Fashion Design & Business Management

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Mrs. Martha Singleton

*Fashion Design & Business Management* is a course designed to provide students with the fundamentals to fashion design, fashion history, apparel construction, pattern making and textiles. Also, teach fashion drawing, sewing techniques, event and fashion show production, merchandising, fashion trends, digital design, costume and make up. Students will also gain insight into the theoretical and practical industry concepts, strategies, and techniques associated with management and business principles, financial literacy, and personal finance.

## Music

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Mr. Jerel Jefferson

### Music Theory

*Music Theory* is the first level of class for the Music Department. In this class, students will explore various types of music through singing, playing an instrument, and group projects. Curriculum covers basic music theory, music industry, composition, American music genres, music history, and world music.

*Beginning Chorus & UAFA Advanced Chorus* develops students’ skills in vocal and instrumental technique, live performances, ensemble work. The Advanced Chorus curriculum consists of music theory, choral and band live performance pieces, and solo live performance opportunities.

*Introduction to Piano* students will learn basic piano skills using both hands including 5 finger position, scales, progressions, fingering techniques, and accompaniment. Students will also learn basic music theory including notes, rhythm, harmony, and form and will be able to perform solo and ensemble music.

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## Television/Film

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Mr. Jahi Gilkey

*Television/Film* focuses on the industries of television and film. The students will have the opportunity to gain hands on experiences with equipment used within the industry such as “Final Cut Pro” video editing software, Canon cameras, and Apple computer systems. This course studies the electronic mass media, it surveys the cultural industries from multiple perspectives, including history, economics, production processes, content, social effects, diversity, and globalization. Each student will be introduced to the following skills: storytelling, oral presentations, creative process of pre-production, production, post- production and collaborating with industry professionals on major projects. This course also features technical and creative aspects of directing, camera work, editing, and lighting. The Television/Film course will provide students with the opportunity to express their creativity, as well as participate in divergent thinking and creative problem solving.

## Theatre

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Ms. Fredena Williams

*Theatre* focuses on improvisation, understanding the business of acting, theatre acting, film & television, monologues, presentations, and performance. Additionally, this class will focus on scene work, body movement, as well as ensemble work. Voice and speech work are also focused on in this course which encompasses projection, articulation, vocal quality, and correct word pronunciation. Students will examine scenes and perform in productions throughout the school year. Students will gain in-depth knowledge from an instructor within the industry.

## Visual Arts

Grades: 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Artist: Ms. Shiterria Harris

*Visual Arts* students will trace the history of art and describe various forms of art. Students will identify the elements of art and examine the principles of design. Throughout this course, students will analyze the parameters in evaluating and critiquing art. Students will engage in the art-making processes of creating two-dimensional works, drawing, painting, digital art, printmaking, and/or collages.