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EHS Announces Creation of Academy of Visual and Performing Arts

Essex High School (EHS) has recently established the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts, available to students beginning in the fall of 2010. As a “school within a school,” the Academy was developed to enrich the educational experience for students who envision a future for themselves in the arts.

The goal of the Academy is to create an environment where students can refine and explore their artistic creativity, while still receiving the same academic preparation as other students. Three career strands will be offered: Visual Arts and New Media, Music, and Theater and Film. The EHS Fine Arts Department is also exploring potentially adding a Dance strand to the Academy. Interdisciplinary options will also be offered.

“We hope to provide students with valuable learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom walls in order to compete and thrive in a 21st-century global economy,” EHS Fine Arts Department Chair Julian Bradshaw said. “enrichment activities such as field trips, guest performers, master classes, artists-in-residences, community service and job shadowing opportunities will allow students to learn first-hand the importance of artistic and creative development, while exposing them to a variety of careers in the arts.”

Authentic learning opportunities and intensive studies in the arts will be provided to students intending advanced college prep. or careers in the visual and performing arts. The Academy emphasizes an individualized and interdisciplinary approach to learning, striving to support student originality and artistic development. Technology-based learning in each career strand of the Academy will provide students the skills and tools necessary to compete in a 21st-century global economy.

An informational session about the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts will be held on September 23, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m. It will be held at Essex High School and is open to all interested students and parents. For more information about the Academy, or for details on application and eligibility requirements, please contact Julian Bradshaw at 879-5546 or jbradshaw@ccsuvt.org. Additional information can be found online at www.avpavt.org.