Special Interest Programs

Para Hills High School

For talented and gifted students, offering opportunities to grow and excel

Artists making performances (AMP)

The programs are designed to stretch and extend high achieving learners offering extraordinary opportunities to learn, grow, and collaborate with industry leaders in the fields of performing arts and technology.

AMP

Available to students in years 7 to 11.

AMP Arts Collective offers talented students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the dynamic world of the performing arts. This program is designed to nurture and challenge students who are passionate about the performing arts, providing them with engaging learning experiences and invaluable industry exposure.

Students will collaborate across year levels to create productions from start to finish. They will have the chance to take on various roles, including off-stage production elements such as set and costume design, lighting, and theatre production. Through these experiences, students will develop essential skills and knowledge to pursue pathways in the performing arts.

A key feature of the program is the close collaboration with the local community, as well as hands-on engagement with contemporary practitioners and industry professionals. This year, students will work with renowned organisations, including the Australian Dance Theatre, Gravity and Other Myths, and acclaimed choreographer Stephanie Lake, as part of Mass Movement at the Adelaide Festival.

The program provides diverse experiences and opportunities for to extend talented and gifted student whilst supporting them to develop a comprehensive understanding of the wide-ranging possibilities within the performing arts world.

Scan to code to apply.

SCAN ME

Unlocking Potential (UP)

Both programs are designed to nurture the unique talents and aspirations of our students, offering them hands-on experiences that will shape their futures.

UP

Available to students in years 7 to 10.

This program offers a unique opportunity for students to explore fields such as robotics, 3D printing, Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence. By engaging in hands-on learning experiences, students will develop key skills in design thinking, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creative innovation, all while discovering how these technologies can be applied to address real-world challenges.

With a focus on developing future-ready professionals, the program offers a mix of off-site learning experiences at venues such as UniSA and Lot14, where students can engage with cutting-edge technologies in innovative environments. Students will also benefit from industry immersion experiences that expose them to potential career pathways and provide real-world context for their studies.

A particularly exciting highlight of the UP program is the STEM exchange in Japan, organised in collaboration with Fuji Industries, a global leader in technology.

This exclusive exchange offers selected students the unique opportunity to travel to Japan, immersing themselves in one of the world's most advanced and innovative tech environments. During the exchange, students will experience firsthand the cutting-edge technologies shaping industries worldwide, from robotics to AI, while learning from leading experts in the field. The UP Program is designed to extend the skills of talented and gifted students with a keen interest in future technologies.

This exchange will provide invaluable exposure to international STEM opportunities, giving students a deeper understanding of real-world applications and providing a global perspective on the future of technology. Scan to code to apply.

SCAN ME

About the facilitators

PHHS students are able to flourish because of the strong teaching and developmental framework we have in place. Innovative teaching methods and a firm focus on academic excellence inspire classroom learning, while a safe and supportive industry learning environment and strong community those help every student build confidence and connection.

Novi Palmer

Novi is the special interest programs coorindator and education futurist.

With a Master's in Education and experience coordinating statewide specialist programs, he has developed a deep understanding of educational equity and effective teaching strategies. Novi's ability to create diverse and engaging programs meet the varied needs of students, which is crucial in promoting equity in education.

Tyson Olson

Tyson is a dance and drama teacher and is at the forefront of innovation in human movement and expression.

Tyson has a diverse and rich background in contemporary dance. Gaining experience with both national and international companies provides him with a unique perspective on different styles, techniques, and cultural influences in dance.

Trudy Surman

Trudy is the head of The Arts faculity at PHHS. Trudy has spent 20+ years working with students, creating programs in dance, musicals and film which continues to inspire students to experience the arts.

Trudy was awarded the Public Education Award in 2022 for Teacher of Year.

Alan Whelan

Alan's commitment as a teacher has impacted many students, nurturing their curiosity and encouraging them to embrace the unknown while fearlessly challenging scientific concepts.

With a degree in computer engineering, Alan integrates design thinking and problem-solving into his curriculum, empowering students to think critically and creatively. Through mentorship and hands-on projects, Alan not only teaches students the principles of science and engineering but also instills confidence in their ability to tackle complex challenges.

Extraordinary outcomes

Each student's personal growth will be enhanced and accelerated.
The avenues for personal growth are -

- Increased self-awareness as an individual
- Strategies to foster positive and transparent relationships with others
- Methods for critical decision making
- A heightened awareness of a moral compass and how to navigate life outside the classroom

Enquiries and further information

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