



Grunin Performing Arts Academy



OCVTS GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY



The Grunin Performing Arts Academy is a four-year comprehensive public high school administered by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Our program opened its doors in September 2001 for students entering the ninth grade. Grunin Performing Arts Academy offers an artistically distinctive and academically sound learning setting for students gifted in the performing arts and the technical aspects of art production. The academy offers its' students curriculum that is specially designed with a concentration in dance, vocal music, theatre, and audio engineering, while providing a rigorous academic program of study.

In January 2020, the OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy moved to new state-of-the-art building located on the Ocean County College campus. This move not only resulted in the Grunin Performing Arts Academy becoming more centrally located in Ocean County, it presented advanced learning opportunities for our students. Students now have the opportunity to register in Ocean County College embedded classes for dual credit, opening up the opportunity to earn an associate's degree in addition to their high school diploma.

The mission of the Grunin Performing Arts Academy of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School district is to provide a rigorous curriculum for creatively gifted and academically driven high school students. Our challenging coursework empowers graduates with the experience, knowledge, and 21st Century skills necessary to succeed in the academia and arts industry. Our students will develop critical thinking skills to propel them into the global landscape of interconnectivity. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy exists to provide a unique, nurturing and challenging learning environment for students gifted in the performing arts.

The Ocean County Vocational Technical School District is responsible for recruitment, admissions, and the instructional program. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy is a competitive, specialized high school that selects its 9th grade class each year from applicants found within the public and private schools of Ocean County. All students apply and participate in a selective admissions process that considers middle school grades (transcripts), admissions test scores, and audition/interview performance in a specified discipline.

QUICK FACTS:

Type of School: Public Grades Included: 9-12

Total Enrollment: 270 (as of September 2023)

CEEB Code: 310683

The Grunin Performing Arts Academy Class of 2023 was offered almost **\$9 million** in scholarships and awards.



Grunin Performing Arts Academy COURSE OF STUDY

All students must successfully complete a minimum of 162 high school credits to graduate. Courses are typically instructed in block format, either semester long or alternating days. All courses are instructed on at the minimum of college preparatory level.

	PAA CREDITS	OCC CREDITS
FRESHMEN		
Performing Arts I/ DANC 130**, THTR 193**, MUSC 101** or MUSC 194**	10	2/3
English I *	5	
Algebra I* or Geometry* or Algebra II*	5	
Biology*	5	
World Civilization/HIST 181**	5	3
Health & Physical Education	5	
Spanish I or SPAN 151**	5	3
STSC 150** Student Success Seminar	2	2
CSIT 123** Integrated Office Software		3
TOTAL	42	13-14***
SOPHOMORES		
Performing Arts II/ DANC 131**, THTR 197**, MUSC 190** or COEM 231**	10	2/3
Performance Minor/DANC 145**, MUSC 190**, THTR 195** or Audio	5	3
English II*	5	
Geometry* or Algebra II* or Other*/**	5	
Chemistry*	5	
Physical Education & Driver's Education	5	
SPAN 151**/Spanish II or Spanish III	5	3
TOTAL	40	8-9***
JUNIORS		
Performing Arts III/ THTR 194**/THTR 195**, DANC 120**/DANC 150** MUSC 120**/MUSC 160**/MUSC 181**, COEM 231**/COEM 232**	10	4-6
English III, ENGL 151** or AP English Language and Composition	5	3
Algebra II* and Elementary Functional Analysis (EFA)*, AP Pre-Calculus/MATH 191** or Statistics/ MATH 156**	5-10	4+
ENVI 152** AP BIO	5	4
US History I/HIST 173**	5	3
Political Science/POLI 183	2.5	3
Sociology/SOCI 181	2.5	3
Health & Physical Education	5	
Note: Juniors must complete OSHA training for Senior Internship		
TOTAL	40	24-26***
SENIORS		
Performing Arts IV/THTR 189**, MUSC 194**/MUSC 161**, DANC 145**/DANC 241**/DANC 121**, COEM 233,	10	3-8
English IV * ENGL 152** or AP English Literature w/ ENGL 152** Option	5	3
Elective: Various	5	3-4
US History II/HIST 174**	5	3
Health & Physical Education	2.5	
Internship	5	
Performing Arts History/Theory	2.5	3
Financial Literacy	2.5	
Public Speaking/COMM 154**	2.5	3
TOTAL	45	15-24***

* Indicates course may be taken as college prep or honors level

** Embedded course/Ocean County College Credits

*** Ocean County College course credits vary by major



Ocean Co. to build \$26.7M performing arts high school

ERIK LARSEN @ERIK_LARSEN

TOMS RIVER - Ocean County is going to build a performing arts high school.

The \$26.7 million project is planned for the campus of Ocean County College in Toms River with an anticipated 2019 opening, the Board of Freeholders announced Wednesday at an agenda meeting.

Freeholder Director Joseph H. Vicari said the proposed 53,000-square-foot building will be financed through a partnership between the state of New Jersey, the county government, the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, and the county college.

When completed, the operation of the school will be administered by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School system. However, the students who attend the school will be eligible to take the required coursework necessary to graduate from high school with both a diploma and an associate degree from the county college, Vicari explained.

The vocational school's current performing arts academy is located inside historic Hangar One at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, but the county plans to discontinue its lease with the military there, he said. Freeholder John C. Bartlett Jr., director of finance on the board, said 40 percent of the construction cost

would be financed by the state government. The other 60 percent would be divided between the county and the Grunin foundation, which since 2013 has invested more than \$12 million in philanthropic projects in the Toms River area, with a primary focus on the arts.

"We will be getting \$10.6 million from the state of New Jersey, that leaves \$16 million left," Bartlett said. The taxpayers of Ocean County will pay for the first \$8 million and the foundation will pick up the second \$8 million, Bartlett said.

Additionally, the college's Board of Trustees will make \$2 million available to cover any interest payments or "other incidentals" that come up during the length of the project, Bartlett explained.

With the exception of a state government representative, all of the parties involved in the project were present Wednesday. During the meeting, Vicari took the unprecedented step of opening the agenda session to questions from reporters and other members of the public present.

OCC President Jon H. Larson said the future students of their performing arts school will be able to cut the cost of their college tuition in half by earning an associate degree at the two-year college at the same time they earn their high school diploma.

"Ultimately, we're going to see the best performing arts academy anywhere in the United States as a result of this partnership," Larson said. "It's a marvelous, marvelous opportunity. It's also the fulfillment of a dream that I have heard Jay Grunin talk about for so long now, to invest in the curriculum of the college across the board."

The school is to be situated on the campus adjacent to the existing Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts, said Jay Grunin.

"It is our audacious hope and expectation that Ocean County in general and Toms River in particular, become a major cultural hub in New Jersey with this cutting edge performing arts high school adjoining the magnificent 450-seat theater on the beautiful Ocean County (College) campus," Grunin said.

William P. Hoey, Jr., superintendent of the vocational school system, said the partnership with the county college went beyond a planned building on its campus. "We're also going to be sharing additional classroom space at the college," Hoey said. "We'll be using the student center; our kids will be using the library, the gymnasium, the ball fields and all of that already exists; so the county is not having to put in additional dollars to add that to a (new) high school."

Erik Larsen: 732-682-9359; elarsen@gannettmj.com

"This amazing educational and cultural project is the direct result of the cooperation and partnership between the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation, the Ocean County Freeholders, the New Jersey State Department of Education, Ocean County College and the Ocean County Vocational School District."
-William P. Hoey, Jr., Former OCVTS Superintendent

"We are breaking new ground in an associational innovation by partnering with OCVTS to construct a Performing Arts Academy on the OCC campus. This will be the first-in-the-nation organically grown example of an entire early college high school that allows a student to graduate with a high school diploma and OCC's Associate in Arts degree at the same time. Only through the generous support of the Grunin Foundation, the County Freeholders, and the State of New Jersey is this project becoming a reality."
- Jon H. Larson, Ph.D., President, Ocean County College

"Helping to bring the Performing Arts Academy to the campus of Ocean County College is a reaffirmation of our commitment to the Arts at the Jersey Shore. This partnership will allow our young people, who have a real passion for the Arts, to receive a first-class education in a beautiful college setting, at a state-of-the-art facility. We know that one of the drivers of a strong economy is a thriving Arts culture, and with this Academy we will see graduates for generations to come who will continue to uplift our community."
-Jay Grunin, The Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation



"On behalf of the entire Board of Chosen Freeholders, I am very pleased that this partnership will bring exciting new opportunities to our Vocational School students. The Performing Arts Academy on the Ocean County College campus will provide students with an outstanding education using both existing college buildings and state-of-the-art new facilities. Here, our creatively gifted young people will find a place where their talents will truly blossom."
-Joseph H. Vicari, Ocean County Freeholder and Liaison to OCVTS



IT'S OFFICIAL!!

OCVTS GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY NOW OPEN

▲ Curtain Opens for OCVTS Performing Arts Academy By Bob Vosseller - January 21, 2020 Originally printed on Jersey Shore Online Magazine

TOMS RIVER—They arrived by bus and car and entered with excitement for their first day of class in the brand-new Ocean County Vocational Technical School Performing Arts Academy building. It wasn't just the students that were excited about the state-of-the-art facility but administrators, staff, OCVTS Board of Education members and elected officials. The building is on the campus of Ocean County College in Toms River. It provides a showcase for those seeking careers in several areas of the performing arts. It also provides college credits and a modern, safe environment that Freeholder Director Joseph Vicari proudly said equals anything available in the northern part of the state. "I've been in education as a teacher, principal and superintendent for 40 years and this is remarkable. It is state of the art and students will feel inspired to attending class here," Vicari said.

Vicari couldn't wait for the students to arrive or staff and administrators to provide a tour. He decided to explore the hallways, classrooms, bathrooms, elevator and even furnace room to get a first look at the new building. The facility's creation was sparked by the need to relocate from Hanger 1 at Joint Base Lakehurst, which due to security reasons made the civilian school facility difficult to access. The project has a 20-year bond for \$27 million. Vicari said that 40% of the cost of the new facility was provided by the state while the county's portion was \$8 million. Another \$8 million was provided by the Jay and Linda Grunin Foundation. "It was a wonderful partnership between Ocean County College as we had the land here, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and many more partnerships," Vicari said. "Everything from the dressing rooms, the acoustics of the recording studios are unbelievable," Vicari said. He noted that the design also ensured security and fire safety standards. According to OCVTS Superintendent Karen Homiek, who served as principal of the academy for 14 years prior to becoming superintendent, 279 students currently attend classes in the facility in a 9-12th grade program. The students are from various

communities across Ocean County and must go through an application, testing and audition process. "The building is 57,000 square feet and three stories high. We are very excited about its opening today. Former OCVTS Superintendent William Hoey helped set this into motion. He got the wheels in motion for this and we finished up. Our staff is totally dedicated and they were anxious to start working here today," Homiek said. Hoey passed away last year. Homiek said the academy, which is one of three full-time academies initiated by the OCVTS District, is a fairly young program which started in September 2001 at the Hangar 1 site. "Since that time, we have grown by leaps and bounds, both academically and culturally, raising the level of expectations and challenging our students to a high degree of success. Our administration and instructors nurture an intimate setting which provides opportunities to develop these exceptional relationships. Families are encouraged to participate and become an integral part of the decision-making processes on topics affecting their children's education. Mutual respect, fairness and cooperation pervade all aspects of our school," Homiek said. "In the past 15 years the Performing Arts Academy has been nominated and recognized numerous times for our students' and instructors' talents, professionalism and performances by prestigious groups such as: Montclair State University (Theatre Night Awards), Ocean Arts (Rising Stars) and Two River Theatre (Metro Paper Mill Playhouse (Rising Stars) and Two River Theatre (Metro Paper Mill Playhouse program)," she said. "In August 2012, we were acknowledged by New Jersey Monthly Magazine as a top vocational high school. The following September we received a plaque from Inside New Jersey for being a 'NJ Top Performing High School.' In addition, they recognized us as 'Top 10 School,'" Homiek said. OCVTS Board President Nina Amario said the new building opened earlier than anticipated. "We were expecting the building to be finished in May and that classes would start in September. This facility can also be used for other classes at night so it serves two purposes."

Amario credited the hard work of OCVTS Director of Facilities Edward Crawford for making the day's opening a reality. Crawford was busy looking over the building during the morning. Homiek said while most high school programs require a 120-credit requirement to graduate, "we have a minimum 162 credits." "Students will save on the cost of 15 to 30 college credits which adds up," Vicari added. "This is STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and it provides an education that is competitive with other schools. When I was living in Jersey City, they didn't have schools like this." Nineteen buses transport students from around the 33 municipalities of Ocean County to the facility. Vicari noted that the new operation did not require any additional cost in so far as its location at the college. "These students are excited to be here. This is a landmark day for OCVTS," Academy Principal Christine Santasieri said. "We have a staff of 35 to 40 people and 279 students. It has been a long time coming but it received a lot of dedication and hard work went into making this all happen." Vicari said the programs of the new facility provides an equal opportunity for students and recognizes them as an individual. Juniors Ethan Wickes of Toms River South High School and Steve Riccobono of Toms River North were getting used to their new surroundings. Both are seeking careers in audio engineering. "This is very cool," Wickes said looking around the hallway and at the classrooms. "The four-year programs here include audio engineering, vocals, dance and acting." "I'm interested in going into music production," Wickes said. School Counselor Sandy Stout was excited about starting her first day at the facility not only for its ultra-modern look but it also meant a shorter commute for the Toms River resident. "The students are so excited today and they are in awe of this building," Vicari pondered the future of other county education projects noting that the county owns land behind the college campus. "We have five sites we could build on and four more buildings that could be built."



OCVTS PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY NAMED 2014 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL, *AN EXEMPLARY HIGH PERFORMING HIGH SCHOOL* – Jean Sullivan

PRESS RELEASE FROM 2014:

The Ocean County Vocational Technical School's Performing Arts Academy (PAA) was one of 337 schools nationwide to be selected as a 2014 Blue Ribbon School by the US Department of Education. The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. PAA was recognized as an exemplary high performing high school.

The Performing Arts Academy is a four-year full-time high school designed to provide performing arts curriculum focused in dance, vocal music, and acting, integrated into a rigorous college preparatory academic program. The school exists to provide a unique, nurturing, and challenging learning environment for students living in Ocean County who are gifted in the performing arts. The teaching philosophy strives to incorporate the arts into all educational areas by integrating curriculum and by interaction with professionals from the arts industry.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan proclaimed, "These great schools are fulfilling the promise of American education—that all students, no matter their name or zip code, can flourish when schools provide safe, creative, and challenging learning environments. National Blue Ribbon Schools are models of consistent excellence and a resource for other schools and districts. We celebrate them for their tireless effort and boundless creativity in reaching and teaching every student."

PAA Principal Karen Homiek added, "The staff's teamwork, collaboration and dedication play a major role in the success of our program. College prep, Honors classes, AP and college courses provide the foundation for academic and performance achievement. We are proud of this recognition and will continue to offer a challenging and rigorous curriculum to our students."

The OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy is now accepting applications for incoming freshman for the 2024-2025 school year. Students are selected from applications through a highly competitive process and enter at the ninth-grade level. Applicants must reside in Ocean County to be eligible for admission. Application deadline is midnight December 11th.



NOTE TO STUDENTS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OCVTS GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

Academy applications are available to students attending our Information Sessions as well as on-line at www.ocvts.org.

OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy has a competitive admissions process. Student's middle school grades (transcripts), admissions tests scores, and audition/interview performance all play a role in acceptance into our program. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy is designed to provide students with performing arts curricula focused in dance, vocal music, acting, and audio engineering, along with a four-year rigorous academic program. Keeping this in mind, it is important for students who wish to attend be committed to their craft/talent and have a willingness to work hard.

We strongly recommend attending one of our Information Sessions to learn about our program and the education opportunities we offer. These sessions are designed to help students and their families make informed decisions regarding an educational pathway that is in the best interest of each student.

The academy approach to learning is different from the traditional high school setting and the decision to apply should be made after review and discussion of the material presented during our Information Sessions.



APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- 1. Information Sessions:** Although you may have diverse interests, you may apply to only one of OCVTS's three academies. Attending our information sessions may help you decide which school is right for you. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy Information Sessions are scheduled for the following three dates: 10/14, 10/26 or 11/04. These are in person events. Please register on-line at <https://www.ocvts.org/academies> to attend one of our Information Sessions.
- 2. Obtain Academy Admission Materials and Application:** Academy applications and admission materials can be obtained at one of the information sessions or online at www.ocvts.org.
- 3. Application Submission:** Complete the required application online. The following academic grades **MUST** be included as support material: 7th grade final report card and 8th grade first marking period report card.
4. All applications and academic grades **MUST** be submitted online by midnight on **December 11, 2023**.
5. **Admission Testing:** Take the admission test on **January 6, 2024** at:
OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy:
1 College Drive, Building 12 (Parking Lot 2)
Toms River, NJ 08754
Staggered start times will be used for Admission Testing
6. **Auditions:** Auditions will be held on **January 13, 2024** at:
OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy
1 College Drive, Building 12 (Parking Lot 2)
Toms River, NJ 08754
Staggered start times will be used for auditions

Acceptance Criteria

Applicants will be ranked using the following criteria:

- A) Academic grades 7th grade
 8th grade (first marking period)
- B) Admissions Exam
- C) Audition



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What must be included with my application?

- A. -The application must be filled out completely.
-OCVTS will be requesting a copy of the student's grades/report cards from their current school via email.

The deadline for online applications is **midnight on December 11, 2023**. Late applications WILL NOT be accepted.

Q. How competitive is the admissions process, and what are the minimum requirements?

- A. In general, there will be more applicants than available space. We assign scores to all applicants based on academic records, performance on our entrance exam, and performance at our auditions/interview(s).

Q. What happens if I am not accepted?

- A. If you are not accepted but you meet the minimum criteria, your application will remain on file. Should an opening occur, your application may be reconsidered.

Q. What is on the entrance exam?

- A. The exam contains two sections: mathematics and language arts literacy. Questions are multiple-choice. Calculators are permitted on one portion of the mathematics assessment.

Q. What is the audition?

- A. Auditions for singers, actors, and dancers consists of a practical demonstration of the candidate's talent and skill in their area of interest. Actors and singers, warm as a group, but audition individually. Students that audition for dance participate in a dance workshop, that last approximately 2 hours long, where prospective students are judged individually. Students interested in Audio Engineering program are expected to create a product/presentation and participate in an interview. Both auditions and interviews are evaluated by industry professionals. Specific audition/interview requirements will be made available to applicants prior to auditions during the Information Sessions.

Q. What if I am sick and miss the exam/audition?

- A. A make-up date will be available for the exam and/or the audition, based on the circumstances of the individual.

Q. How and when will I be notified of acceptance?

- A. It will take approximately four weeks for all processing to be completed after the audition date. All applicants who have completed the admissions process will be notified by mail whether they have been accepted or not.

Q. Can I apply to more than one Career Academy?

- A. No, you may only apply to one school. Our Career Academies offer very specialized curricula. The Career Academies admissions process attempts to match students to the most appropriate program for that student. One of the first steps in that process is for you to choose the school that most fulfills your interests and abilities.

Q. How will I make arrangements for transportation and other costs?

- A. The Ocean County Vocational Technical School District is a public-school district. If you have been accepted, your resident school district will be notified and transportation will be provided by that district. You can expect to incur the same kinds of costs that you would in your resident school. Notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. are your responsibility to provide.



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Grunin Performing Arts Academy is a four-year comprehensive public high school administered by the Ocean County Vocational Technical School District. Our school opened its doors in September 2001 for students entering the ninth grade. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy is designed to provide performing arts curricula focused in dance, vocal music, acting, and audio engineering, along with a four-year rigorous academic program.

In January 2020, the OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy moved to new state-of-the-art building located on the Ocean County College campus. This move not only resulted in the Grunin Performing Arts Academy becoming more centrally located in Ocean County, it also presents advanced learning opportunities for our students. Students now have the opportunity to register in Ocean County College embedded classes for dual credit, opening up the opportunity to earn a dual degree.

The mission of the Grunin Performing Arts Academy of the Ocean County Vocational Technical School district is to provide a rigorous curriculum for creatively, gifted and academically driven high school students. Our challenging coursework empowers graduates with the experience, knowledge, and 21st century skills necessary to succeed in the academia and arts industry. Our students will develop critical thinking skills to propel them into the global landscape of interconnectivity. The Grunin Performing Arts Academy exists to provide a unique, nurturing and challenging learning environment for students gifted in the performing arts.

STUDENT SELECTION AND ADMISSION

Students are selected through a competitive application process. For admission, students are assessed using the applicant's current academic transcript, as well as their performance on admissions exams and an audition/interview. Students typically enter the Grunin Performing Arts Academy at the 9th grade level, however, openings for students presently enrolled in 9th grade may be available and will be determined annually. Applicants must reside in Ocean County to be eligible for admission. All school districts in Ocean County are eligible to participate in sending applications to the program.

ADMISSION

To be eligible for admission, the student should be enrolled in and successfully complete an eighth-grade program that includes: English, math, science, social studies and physical education. It is recommended that students also be involved in performing arts activities. Students applying as high school transfers will have current transcripts evaluated. Students entering as sophomores must successfully complete their 9th grade coursework or they will lose their acceptance.

TRANSPORTATION

The student's resident district will be responsible for transporting the student to the Grunin Performing Arts Academy.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The school day runs from 7:30am -1:43 pm daily. Classes are offered in a block scheduling format which allows for maximum participation in the learning process. Students that attend our four-year program receive training by professionals in the art of performance.

Information for Applicants (Continued)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Our course of study exceeds the New Jersey minimum course requirements for graduation. OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts students are offered the skills necessary to develop and manage a career in the arts industry. Students are provided with the opportunity to perform and record in a professional audio recording studio. Trips are taken to see professional performances. Guest artists are invited to the school to perform and train our students.

NINTH GRADE COURSES OF STUDIES

Performing Arts I / DANC130**, THTR193**, MUSC101** or MUSC 194**

English I *

Algebra I* or Geometry* or Algebra II*

Biology*

World Civilization/HIST 181**

Health & Physical Education

Spanish I or Spanish II/SPAN151**

STSC150** Student Success Seminar (Course designed to develop critical thinking, note-taking, test-preparation, and time management skills)

CSIT123** Integrated Office Software

* Indicates course may be taken as college prep or honors level

** Embedded course/Ocean County College Credits

***Ocean County College course credits vary by major

ADVANCED CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

The Grunin Performing Arts Academy has forged a partnership with Ocean County College that provides our students with the opportunity to earn most of the credits needed for an associate's degree. In embedded classes, Ocean County College learning objectives and expectations have been aligned with ours to maintain coursework integrity, as well as ensure academic rigor. We are proud to be able to offer Ocean County College embedded classes throughout all four grade levels.

Save the Dates.

Grunin Performing Arts Academy
Admission Information Sessions

Saturday, October 14, 9:00 AM

Wednesday, October 26, 6:00 PM

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 AM

To register for an information session, please visit <https://www.ocvts.org/academies>

All Grunin Performing Arts Academy
Information Sessions will be in person events

Application Deadline: December 11th, 2023 (MIDNIGHT)

Admission Testing: January 6th, 2024 (Begins 8 AM – Scattered Starts)

Auditions/Interviews: January 13th, 2024 (Begins 8 AM – Scattered Starts)

Additional information regarding Admission Testing and Auditions/Interviews will be sent electronically after you have completed the application process.





College Acceptances

The Grunin Performing Arts Academy Class of 2023 was offered almost \$9 million in scholarships and awards.

Adelphi University
Albright College
American Academy of Dramatic Arts
American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Arcadia University
Atlantic Cape Community College
Ball State University
Belmont University
Bennington College
Berkeley College
Boston Conservatory
Boston University
Brandeis University
Brookdale Community College
Caldwell College
California State University
Carnegie Mellon University
Cedar Crest College
Coastal Carolina University
College and Conservatory of Music
Columbia College
Dartmouth
Delaware State University
DeSales University
Drew University
Drexel University
East Carolina University
Elon University
Emerson College
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Five Towns College
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Georgian Court University
George Mason University
Green Mountain College
Hartford County College
Hartford University
The Hart School of Music
Hofstra University
Ithaca University
James Madison University
Kean University
La Roche College
Long Island University, CW Post
Louisiana State University
Loyola University
Manhattan College
Manhattan School of Music
Marymount University
Marymount Manhattan College
Maryville College
Mason Gross School of the Arts
McNally Smith College of Music
Messiah College
Miami Dade College – Kendall
Monmouth University
Montclair State University
Mount Saint Mary's College
Naropa University
Nazareth College
New World School of the Arts
New York Film Academy
New York University
Northeastern University
Nyack College
Ocean County College
Ohio Northern University
Otterbein College
Pace University
Peabody Conservatory of Music
Penn State University
Point Park University
Ramapo College
Rider University
Rutgers University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Sacred Heart University
Salisbury University
Sanford Brown Institute
Santa Fe University of Art and Design
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Shenandoah College
Slippery Rock University
St. Joseph College
St. Louis University
St. Peter's College
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stockton University
Southern Illinois University
Temple University
The Art Institute of New York City
The College of New Jersey
Tisch School of the Arts
Towson University
University of Arizona
University of the Arts University of Cincinnati – Conservatory of Music
University of Delaware
University of Alabama
University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Hilo
University of Maryland
University of North Carolina
University of the Sciences
University of Tampa
Vassar College
Wagner College
Washington College
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Westminster College of the Arts
Wilkes University
William Patterson University of New Jersey



Grunin Performing Arts Academy Tentative Calendar of Events EXAMPLE

***Calendar of Events* provides a snapshot of a typical school year:**

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Back-To-School Night-Welcome Back Dance
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ocean Gate Bonfire-GPAA Performance Troupe Performances-NHS Breast Cancer Walk-Two River Theatre Field Trip-PSATs-Stockton University Dance Day-Performance of "Bang, Bang Your Dead."-Halloween Dance
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Fall Drama Production at Ocean County College-Friendsgiving-GPAA Performance Troupe Performances-Guest Artist Workshops-College Fair
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Guest Artists Workshops-Underclassmen Vocal Show-Junior Dance and Vocal Winter Showcases-Vocal Ensemble Performance for Assisted Living-Vocal Ensemble and Dance Club Performance at Bey Lea Nursing Home-Senior/Junior trip to Broadway and Ellen's Stardust Diner-American Playwrights Project
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Guest Artist Workshop: Dance-Black Box Players-Mutter Museum fieldtrip- Snow Ball Semi-Formal Dance-International Thespian Society State Competition
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Musical Theatre Production at the Strand Theater, Lakewood NJ-NJMEA Regional Chorus Festival-Two River Theatre - Poetry Out Loud-Danceworks/Rutgers University Workshop-Guest Artist Workshops
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Show Up and Dance at Two River Theatre-Freshman/Junior Dance-Guests Artist Workshops-International Thespian Society Induction Ceremony-NJMEA Allstate South Auditions-Black Box Players One Acts

GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS EXAMPLE (CONTINUED)

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| April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Acting Majors Showcase Performance-International Thespian Society Induction Ceremony |
| May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Vocal Majors Showcase Performance-Dance Majors Showcase Performance-Freshman Showcase (all majors)-GPAA Senior Actor Thesis Presentations/Performances-State Exit Exam, Dance Majors-Guests Artist Workshops- Underclassmen Showcases |
| June | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Senior Vocal Theses Projects/Performances-Junior/Senior Choreography Performance-Dessert Cabaret-GPAA School Picnic-International Thespian Society Festival-Senior Awards Ceremony-Graduation |



GRUNIN PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

A cappella (Phantastix)
Black Box Players/Drama Club
Community Service Leaders
Dance Club
Fall Drama
Film
Club
GSA
International Thespian Society (ITS)
Literary Magazine (Wasabi)
Math League
National Honor Society (NHS)
National Honor Society of Dance Arts (NHSDA).
GPAA Performance Troupe
GPAA School Musical
Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO)
Roots and Shoots
Student Council (by grade level)
Table - Top Role Playing Club
Technology Club
Vocal Music Club
Vocal Ensemble
Vocal Chorale
Yearbook

Current Fall Dramas and Spring Musicals:

- *Beauty and the Beast* – Spring Musical 2018
- *Chicago* – Spring Musical 2019
- *Crucible* – Fall Drama 2019
- *Legally Blonde* – Spring Musical 2020
- *Hindsight* – Fall Drama 2020
- *Chorus Line* – Spring Musical 2021
- *Macbeth* – Fall Drama 2021
- *Bring It On* – Spring Musical 2022
- *Clue* – Fall Drama 2022
- *Sweeney Todd* – Spring Musical 2023

Outside Intensives/Workshops/Performances 2004-Present:

- NYU Tisch School of the Arts (summer program)
- Alvin Ailey summer intensive program
- Alvin Ailey independent study program

- Governor's School (summer experience), The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Ewing Twp., NJ
- Peridance (summer program)
- **Outside Intensives/Workshops/Performances 2004-Present (Continued):**
- Manhattan Dance Project (summer program)
- The Rockette Experience (summer program)
- "Slide" (summer intensive workshop with Mike Minnery)
- "The Pulse" (hip hop convention)
- New York City Dance Alliance
- The State University of New York (SUNY) - Binghamton, intensive summer dance institute
- Tremaine Dance Convention
- Annie Get Your Gun, Phoenix Productions; Count Basie Theatre, Red Bank
- The Scarlet Pimpernel; Count Basie Theatre, Red Bank
- Young Artist Program, Westminster Conservatory
- Phantom of the Opera, Broadway
- Miss Saigon, Broadway
- Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps summer program, East Coast Tour/Performances
- Once Upon a Mattress; Manchester Township High School, Manchester
- West Side Story; New Egypt High School, Plumsted Township
- Desire Entertainment Talent Expo 3; The Strand Theatre, Lakewood
- Benefit performance for Tsunami Victims; Methodist Church, Island Heights
- Intern/Apprentice Cabaret; SurfFlight Theatre, Beach Haven
- The Pirates of Penzance, Phoenix Productions
- United Synagogue Youth Mission Mitzvah; nationwide tour
- Joe Valmonte and Christmas Bash performance, The Valmonte Studio
- "Write On" Workshop; Our Gang Players, Barnegat
- New York Performing Arts Center
- The Historic Strand Theatre's summer theatre program, Lakewood, various productions
- "The Play's the Thing" Scholarship, Two River Theatre Company
- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Toms River High School North
- Previous vocal major signed to a record deal with a country music label, Nashville, TN
- Westminster Youth Chorale, Brazilian Tour, Summer 2006
- St. Brendan the Navigator, Irish Pipe and Drums Band
- Dover Recreational Parks' Summer Program and Musical Revue
- Westminster Choir College's Summer Musical Theater Camp and Youth Chorale
- National Anthem Performance, Giants Stadium
- Songs of Inspiration, Algonquin Theatre
- Internships, Two Rivers Theatre
- SurfFlight Theatre's Summer Program Apprentices Program
- Berkshire's Institute of Music and Art's Summer Program
- Rock N' Roll Chorus
- All State Chorus
- Two River Metro Scholar



OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy

2023-2024 Show Dates

2023 FALL DRAMA

Performance Location: Ocean County College Jay and Linda Grunin Center

Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy

Friday, November 3, 2023

7:00 PM Performance

Saturday, November 4, 2023

2:00 and 7:00 PM Performances

Tickets are \$20

For show details, links and more information please go to: <https://sites.google.com/ocvts.org/ocvtspaa>

2023 WINTER SHOWCASES

Performance Location: Ocean County College Jay and Linda Grunin Center

ACTING SHOWCASE

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

VOCAL SHOWCASE

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:30 PM Performance

DANCE SHOWCASE

Monday, December 18, 2023

5:00 and 7:30 PM Performances

Tickets are \$10

For show details, links and more information please go to: <https://sites.google.com/ocvts.org/ocvtspaa>

2024 MUSICAL PRODUCTION

The Prom

Performance Location: Historical Strand Theater

400 Clifton Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey

Friday, February 23, 2024

7:00 PM Performance

Saturday, February 24, 2024

2:00 PM Performance (understudy performance)

7:00 PM Performance

2024 SPRING PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Acting Performances Grunin Performing Arts Academy

Thursday, April 25, 2024 (Juniors) & Friday, April 26, 2024 (Seniors) – *7:00 PM performances*

Vocal Performance -OCC Jay and Linda Grunin Theatre

Friday, May 3, 2024 *7:00 PM performance*

Dance Performance- OCC Jay and Linda Grunin Theatre

Friday, May 10, 2024

Underclassmen Dance & Vocal Showcase- OCC Jay and Linda Grunin Theatre

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 *7:00 PM performance*

Underclassmen Acting Showcase- Grunin Performing Arts Academy

Thursday, May 16, 2024 *7:00 PM performance*

For show details, links and more information please go to: <https://sites.google.com/ocvts.org/ocvtspaa>



Meet the Grunin Performing Arts Academy Faculty

All of our instructors meet the highly qualified teacher provision of *No Child Left Behind*;
 Many of our instructors possess additional qualifications that provided an enriched education experience.

Student to Teacher Ratio (15:1)

	Instructor	Courses Taught	Degree, College	Related Experience
Mathematics	Andrew Dennison	Algebra I Algebra II EFA Economics	Mathematics and Economics, Ursinus College	
	Robin Kelly	Algebra II AP Calculus EFA	Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics – Georgian Court College	SAT Prep Instructor SRA/ HSPA instructor
	Nicole Komorowski	Geometry EFA Algebra II AP Stats	Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Secondary Education- Monmouth University	
	Katerina Wunsch	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II	Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics Education, University of Delaware	
Science	Olympia Gaglioti	Biology, Anatomy, Forensics	Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in French, (Cum Laude) Marymount Manhattan College Master of Science in Biology, Clemson University	Tutoring all levels of Biology and French MCAT Tutor
	Kerri Shoenberger	Biology, Chemistry, Forensics, Environmental Science	Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a minor in Mathematics, Stockton University (Cum Laude and program distinction) Master of Science in Molecular Biology, Lehigh University (Magna Cum Laude)	8 years teaching chemistry, biology, and environmental science
	Dr. Kyle Seiverd	AP BIO, Biology, Environmental Science	Ed.D in Educational Leadership, Monmouth University, M.S. in Biology, Georgian Court University, B.S. Biology and Education, Monmouth University	Adjunct Professor at Monmouth University, published several times, volunteer at the Jane Goodall institute, Member of Toms River Township Municipal Green Team, Represents OCVTS on the OCC Environmental Management Committee

English	Gabriella Grant	English/English Honors/AP	Bachelor of Arts in English, Kean University	Kean University Writing Tutor
	Frank Mastroianni	English	Bachelor of Arts in American Literature and Philosophy, Evergreen State College Master of Education (Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education), Rutgers University	Involved with Adult Literacy Research Project, National Center for Study of Adult Literacy and Learning, Rutgers University
	Michelle Stavros	English/English Honors/AP	Bachelor of Arts Economics, Kean University Master of Arts in Teaching (Second-track), Monmouth University	SAT English preparation AP Literature and Composition
Spanish	Kory Indahl	Spanish I and III	Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish Language and Literature, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Fairleigh Dickinson University (Madison, NJ)	6 years teaching High School English 8 years teaching High School/ Middle School Spanish 10 years administration at 3 accredited international schools Lived/Worked in Spain, Miami and the Republic of Panama +30 credits toward EdD in Educational Leadership
	Daniel Wellner	Spanish I, II and/or III	Bachelor of Science in Marketing and Minor in Spanish, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA Master's degree in Teaching Spanish, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ	Spanish Club for 10 years Studied at St. Louis University in Madrid, January 2000 Foreign Language Educators of New Jersey member
Social Studies	Michael Mazzola	AP European History World Civilization US History Economics	Bachelor of Arts in History and Education, East Stroudsburg University	
	Melissa Morrison	US History I, US History II, Sociology	Bachelor of Arts in History – Georgian Court College Master of Arts in Educational Administration – Kean University	
	Robert Townsend	World Civilization US History	Bachelor of Arts Sociology, Rutgers University	
Physical Education	Michael Baiata	Health and Physical Education I, II, III and IV	Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education, William Paterson University	Driver's Education Certified (NJ DOE) American Red Cross (CPR) Instructor Certified (Adult, Child and Infant) Standard First Aid/AED certified
	Barbara DeSantis	Health and Physical Education I, II, III and IV	Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education, Winthrop College Master of Public Health in Health Promotion and Education, University of South Carolina	Driver's Education Certified (NJ DOE) American Red Cross (CPR) Instructor Certified (Adult, Child and Infant) Standard First Aid/AED certified+

Performance	Kelly Bourke	Dance	Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University	Arts and Education of New Jersey, Arts High School and Arts Middle School Dance Instructor, Middlesex County, NJ American Repertory Ballet, 3 rd grade Dance Power Instructor, Middlesex, NJ Movement Dance Academy, Dance Instructor, Eatontown, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jill Justin Dance Alliance, Dance Instructor, Metuchen, NJ
	William Bourke	Audio Engineering	Ocean County College, Liberal Arts OSHA 10 Certified AVID Pro Tools Certified Instructor	Freelance sound engineer Part-time sound engineer at "Asbury Audio" Part-time sound engineer at "Madison Marquette" Former studio co-owner at Eight Sixteen Music Studio Former studio engineer at The Jam Room Music Complex Former studio engineer at Ocean Recording Studio
	Anthony Ciccotelli	Theatre	Bachelor of Arts in Drama, Empire State College Master of Fine Arts in Drama (under Jim Lipton, Dean) Actors Studio Drama School	Production Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter (Lookingglass Theatre, NYC) Green Dragon (Access Theatre, NYC) Richard II (Raw Space, NYC) A Hell of a Mess (Ionesco Festival, NYC) Have You Ever Seen Uncle Dan Sing? (Circle in the Square Downtown, NYC) Awards and Honors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recipient of two Spotlight On Awards for Off-off Broadway excellence Recipient of English Speaking Union Scholar of the Year, full paid trip to the Globe Theatre London Theatre Companies Members of Wrash, 2B Theatre Company, Founding Member of Mint Theatre Company and working Finalist at the renown The Actor Studio.
	Melissa Faisst	Dance	Bachelor of Fine Arts in Modern Dance (High Honors), Temple University Master of Education in Dance, The University of the Arts	Performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeply Rooted Production, Chicago Sens/ Noemie Lafrance, New York Choreography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Outlet Dance Project, Grounds for Sculptures. Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dayton Ballet Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Dance Education Organization Dance

Performance	Mary Kenny	Vocal Music	Master of Music, Manhattan School of Music Bachelor of Music Education, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University	Performance Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McFarland Artists Management International • Amore Opera, New York City • Amato Opera, New York City • Pacific Opera, New York City • 1776 (Abigail Adams) SurfFlight Theatre, Long Beach Island, New Jersey • <i>Trial by Jury</i> (Plaintiff), Buxton, England • Soloist/Guest Chorister, Riverside Choral Society Private Voice and Piano Instructor
	Carolyn Little	Theatre	Master of Arts in Theatre- Regent University Master of Arts in Higher Education- Walden University Bachelors in English with Secondary Teaching- Montclair State University	New Jersey Chapter Director, Educational Theatre Association
	Timothy Pannella	Audio Engineering	Bachelor of Business Management & Audio Recording - Five Towns College	
	Joseph Puliafico	Vocal Music	Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, University of Delaware	Performance Experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Lake Theatre: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat • Sayreville Main Street Theatre Company: Fiddler on the Roof and Sweeney Todd • The Magic Flute (Monostatos), University of Delaware • East Brunswick Young Adult Charity Players Related: Private Voice and Piano Teacher Director, Academy of Music on Main Street, Children's Choir
Technology	Tara Mangano	Technical Theatre 1 Technical Theatre 2	Bachelor of Arts in Technical Theatre, Rowan University Master of Arts in Educational Theatre, New York University	Professional Credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmy Award winning ABC carpenter shop • CNN • Harrah's Theatre Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Alliance of Theatrical Stage • Employees (IATSE) Local One
	Joan Beckenhauer	Technology	Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems, Kings College Masters of Science in Education, Wilkes University	CNA (Certified Netware Administrator) CNE (Certified Netware Engineer) Silicon Valley, California

Nurse	Dana Weinstein	School Nurse	AAS Nursing from Ocean County College School Nurse Certification from Rowan University BA Psychology from The College of NJ	Registered Nurse since 2000 (10 years Pediatric ICU experience Jersey Shore University Medical Center and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital). Certified School Nurse since 2015
Counselors	Dawn Murphy	School Counselor	Masters of Arts in Counseling, Kean University Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Montclair State University	Adjunct Professor at Kean University
	Sandra Stout	School Counselor	Masters of Education in Counselor Education, Virginia Commonwealth University Bachelor of Arts in Psychology (minor in Guidance, counseling and human service), Montclair State University	

OCVTS Grunin Performing Arts Academy

Ocean County Vocational Technical School District

Christine Santasieri, Principal

Tierney Meeker, Vice Principal

Audio Engineering

William Bourke
Timothy Pannella

Dance

Kelly Bourke
Melissa Faisst

English

Gabriella Grant
Frank Mastroianni
Michelle Stavros

Health/Physical Education

Michael Baiata
Barbara DeSantis

Mathematics

Andrew Dennison
Robin Kelly
Nicole Komorowski
Katerina Wunsch

Science

Olympia Gaglioti
Kerri Shoenberger
Dr. Kyle Seiverd

Social Studies

Michael Mazzola
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Spanish

Kory Indahl
Daniel Wellner

Technical Theater

Tara Mangano

Technology

Joan Beckenhauer

Theater

Anthony Ciccotelli
Carolyn Little

Vocal Music

Mary Kenny
Joseph Puliafico

School Counselors

Dawn Murphy
Sandra Stout

School Nurse

Dana Weinstein

Administrative Assistants

Christine Gemignani
Deborah Sansone

Custodians

Jeffrey Bacon
Justin Caminiti
Frank Harris
Matthew Long
Scott Sheets
John Sweeney

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Gary QuinnDeputy Director
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Kevin Dineen..... Principal, Student Services
Jeremy Dusza.....Principal, Adult Education
Gary MacDonaldDirector, Curriculum/Grants
Christopher Mazur.....Vice Principal, Toms River
Thomas McInerney.....Principal, ALPS/Waretown
Tierney MeekerVice Principal, Grunin PAA
Christine Santasieri.....Principal, Grunin PAA
Lynn SauerPrincipal, Brick
Tiffany SeeleyVice Principal, Brick
Dr. Michael Tash Principal, Technology
Dr. John Wnek Supervisor, MATES
Lillian Zavattieri.....Principal, Toms River/LPN



The mission of Ocean County Vocational Technical School is to provide an intensive and immersive educational experience aligned with the current and emerging demands of business, industry, and advanced education. We instill the knowledge, skills, and competencies required for students to experience success in entering the workforce, advancing along a career pathway, and achieving career aspirations.

It is the policy of the Board of Education of Ocean County Vocational Technical School not to discriminate in its technical programs, vocational opportunities, activities, employment practices or admission policies and practices on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, affectional and sexual orientation, disability or social or economic status. Lack of English language skills will not be a deterrent to admission to any program at Ocean County Vocational Technical Schools.

Inquiries regarding affirmative action, discrimination (including Federal Title IX requirements), sexual harassment or equity should be directed to:

Dr. Michael Maschi, Title IX/Affirmative Action Office, 732.240.6414 (ext. 3332)

Kevin Dineen, Federal Section 504 Officer, 732.244.1122 (ext.3123)

Kevin Dineen, Americans with Disabilities Officer, 732.244.1122 (ext. 3123)

Kevin Dineen, Equity Officer, 732.244.1122 (ext. 3123)

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