



FINE & PERFORMING ARTS NEWS LETTER

January 2026



Artwork by one of the Winter Card Contest Winners, Jia Yi Geng, HMS

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

This winter season has been filled with outstanding performances and creative achievements across our Fine and Performing Arts programs. Our recent plays, musicals, dance recitals, song swaps, winter concerts, and art shows showcased the talents of students throughout the district. Thank you to our teachers for their hard work, and to the administrators, families, and NECSD Buildings & Grounds and custodial teams for their continued support. Stay tuned for the upcoming NFA Main, THA, NWS and FT winter concerts and art shows in January, which will continue to highlight the incredible talents of our students.

We are also proud to celebrate the winners of our 12th Annual Winter Card Contest, with five student artists selected as winners along with eleven honorable mentions. These students were formally recognized for their exceptional work at the [December 9, 2025, Board of Education meeting](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the slideshow of the Winter Card Contest winners' artwork!

Wishing our NECSD community a happy and healthy 2026!

-Kristen Johnsen,
Director of Fine & Performing Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS



1/10 - OCMEA Elementary All-County Instrumental Auditions - CJ Hooker MS, Goshen NY

1/12 - NFA Main Guitar & Piano Recital, NFA Main Auditorium, 6pm

1/13 - THA Winter Concert & Art Show #2, 7:00PM

1/15 - NFA Main Winter Concert II (Snow Date: 1/16/26), NFA Main Auditorium, 6:00pm

1/22 - NWS Winter Concert, 6:30pm

1/22 - Fostertown Winter Concert, 6:30pm

1/23 & 1/24 - OCMEA High School All-County Music Festival, Cornwall HS

2/7 - OCMEA Junior High School All-County Auditions, Warwick Valley MS

2/11 - OCMEA Jazz All-County: Pre-Rehearsal, Warwick Valley HS

NECSD Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Inspiring lifelong learners, enthusiasts, and active participants in the arts, contributing to a vibrant and enriched community.

Questions? Email:
kjohnsen@necsd.net





GRADUATION PATHWAY IN THE ARTS

NECSD has received approval from the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) to offer an Arts Graduation Pathway called the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway (IAAP). The IAAP will offer our students a new portfolio-based graduation pathway. The portfolio, a collection of student works, will assess growth in the New York State Learning Standards in the Arts over time. This is authentic work. It is important for students to have ownership, be authentic, and match their interests wherever possible.

How the Pathway Works:

Students must satisfy High School graduation AND Arts Pathway requirements.

Arts Pathways Requirements:

- Submit the IAAP Arts Graduation Pathway Student Application/Declaration form
- Must complete an approved 3-course sequence
- Submit a portfolio artifact for each course
- Successful portfolio review upon completion of requirements

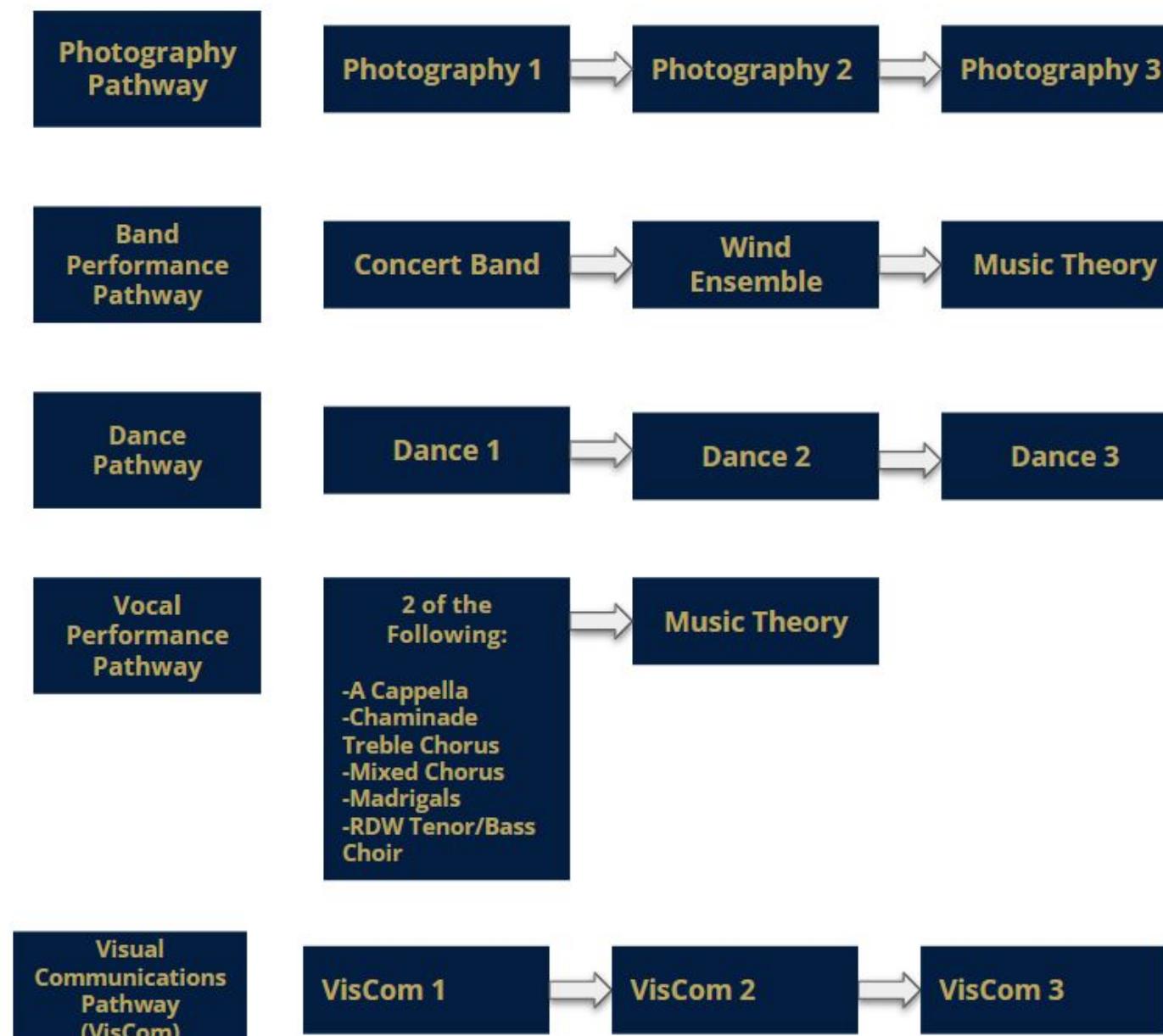
Who is Eligible?

All NECSD students who have completed a 3-course sequence of High School Fine and Performing Arts courses.

Current approved Arts Pathways and their respective HS campuses:

Photography (NFA CTE)	Dance (NFA Main)	Music (NFA Main/North)	Visual Communications and Design (VisCom) (NFA Main)
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• Possible Arts Pathway Sequences:



[CLICK HERE](#) for an informational slideshow about the graduation pathway in the arts.

Student Application/Declaration for IAAP Arts Graduation Pathway: [CLICK HERE](#)