

SOCSA

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY  
SCHOOL of the ARTS

DANCE • INSTRUMENTAL • THEATRE • VISUAL • VOCAL

2008/2009  
SOCSA ACADEMY HANDBOOK



DANCE • VISUAL  
THEATRE • VOCAL  
INSTRUMENTAL

SOCSA

SEASON  
2008/09

## **Welcome to SOCSA!**

All of us on the SOCSA staff are very excited to be working with you this year; we will have our largest SOCSA student body ever, and a wonderful year of educational opportunities is being planned. This handbook contains valuable information about the policies and procedures for the SOCSA Academy, and also outlines the requirements for completion of the course of study in each major field. Please note that there will be a **SOCSA New Student Orientation on Wednesday, August 27th, at 2:00 in the Porthole Theatre for new students only.** We would also like to invite you to our annual **SOCSA Picnic on Saturday, September 6th at Doheny State Beach Park from 1 to 5 p.m.** Please find details regarding the picnic in a flyer enclosed with your SOCSA registration packet. In addition, there will be a **Mandatory SOCSA Parent Night on Wednesday, September 17th at 7 pm in the Porthole Theatre at Dana Hills High School.** At this meeting, SOCSA Foundation Board President Alan Wickstrom will introduce the SOCSA staff and the SOCSA Foundation Board of Directors. The many important activities which the Board has planned for this year will be discussed that evening as well. We hope that all parents can attend, and that you will find ways in which you can help support the very special program that SOCSA provides to our students.

Once again, welcome to the SOCSA Academy. We thank you for the many volunteer hours, the financial support, and especially the encouragement you give our students in SOCSA. We look forward to meeting and working with you all very soon!

*Ray Woods, SOCSA Artistic Director*

**Dear SOCSA Students and Parents,**

As the SOCSA Administrator, I would like to welcome you to **Dana Hills High School and to the South Orange County School of the Arts.** Dana Hills is an outstanding school and has earned many commendations, including recognition as a two-time recipient of the California Distinguished School award and a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon school designation. The excellence of the SOCSA program has contributed greatly to the success of our school. With the very talented and creative efforts of our SOCSA staff and students, and the enthusiastic participation and commitment of our wonderful SOCSA families, we will continue to flourish as a visual and performing arts academy in the Capistrano Unified School District. We encourage you to take an active part in SOCSA and enjoy all the facets of life in the Dana Hills family, and we all look forward to an exciting 2008-09 school year.

*Dian Johnson, DHHS Assistant Principal, SOCSA Administrator*

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## Mission Statement

The mission of South County School of the Arts is to provide an educational opportunity to students who have chosen the arts as their occupational objective, plan to major in the arts in college or wish to enhance their arts education as much as possible during their high school years. SOCSA will provide a dynamic and creative environment in which students will be involved in an advanced instructional process. This environment will include a rigorous curriculum that integrates academic disciplines and artistic vocational training. Course sequencing with career themes will be offered and implemented affording students the chance to explore and develop their artistic talents, understand the opportunities available to them and participate in mentor programs and work experience. SOCSA students will have earned expanded transcripts that will be noteworthy as they compete for admission to colleges and gain entry into the professional world.

## History of SOCSA

When the South Orange County School of the Arts was established a dream came true for a small group of administrators, teachers, parents, and students who planned for many weeks in the Fall of 1989. The Dream to create an arts academy for the Capistrano Unified School District became a reality when a proposal was written, submitted, and the concept approved by the CUSD Board on November 29th, 1995. It was decided then that a pilot program would proceed in the Spring of 1996. From that beginning, a great deal of additional planning and program designing took place. Once a small group, the SOCSA family now includes over 400 students, 9 faculty, professional coaches, Board of Directors, an Advisory Board of community professionals, parents, and friends who all support and believe in the South Orange County School of the Arts.

## SOCSA's Core Values

- ▶ Promote the growth, development, and education of all students
- ▶ Commitment to excellence in education, strength in character and integrity
- ▶ Promote the highest standard of behavior among students and staff
- ▶ Develop a partnership between the arts and academics
- ▶ Inspire creativity in and instill passion for the arts and art education.
- ▶ Pursue innovation, professionalism, and artistic and intellectual growth
- ▶ Create, develop, and maintain an environment that fosters respect, cooperation, and collaboration
- ▶ Serve our entire community and celebrate cultural diversity and individual self-expression

## SOCSA's Website and E-Mail

The South Orange County School of the Arts maintains an informative website for SOCSA students, their families, SOCSA faculty and for the general public at: **www.SOCSArts.org**. Our website includes contact information, photos, announcements, up-to-date calendars, an on-line box office, updates for the new theatre capital campaign and much more! We encourage you to bookmark and visit our website often as it is updated on a regular basis.

It is also very important that students and parents supply SOCSA with eMail addresses that are checked on a regular basis as both the SOCSA Faculty and Foundation eMail information on a weekly basis

## Administration and Faculty

**Administrator:** **Dian Johnson** (949) 496-6666 Ext. 2235  
DHHS Assistant Principal dijohanson@capousd.org

**Artistic Director - Vocal Music:** **Ray Woods** Ext. 2101  
rpwoods@capousd.org

**SOCSA Secretary:** **Carol Stevenson** Ext. 2212  
cstevenson@capousd.org

**Dance/Theatre:** **Brittany Longdon** Ext. 2201  
bhlongdon@capousd.org

**Drama:** **Pattie Sexton** Ext. 2211  
pasexton@capousd.org

**Theatre Tech:** **Neil Sampson** Ext. 2196  
neil.neilsampson@gmail.com

**Instrumental Music - Band:** **Steve Wade** Ext. 2255  
srwade@capousd.org

**Instrumental Music - Orchestra:** **Sonja Hammad** Ext. 2255  
smhammad@capousd.org

**Visual Arts-Drawing & Painting:** **Chau Tran** Ext. 2203  
cktran@capousd.org

**Visual Arts-Ceramics:** **David Luciani** Ext. 2204  
Visit DHHS.net for eMail

**Visual Arts-Photography:** **Krista Snow** Ext. 2301  
Visit DHHS.net for eMail

**SOCSA Office at Dana Hills High School**  
33333 Golden Lantern SOCSA Website: [www.SOCSArts.org](http://www.SOCSArts.org)  
Dana Point, California 92629 SOCSA eMail: [office@SOCSArts.org](mailto:office@SOCSArts.org)  
(949) 240-1994

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 3174  
Dana Point, CA 92629-8174

*SOCSA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,  
Federal ID No. 33-0810174*

## Recommended SOCSA Course of Study

(Minimum Course Requirements in **Bold**)

### **Dance**

9th grade	<b>SOCSA Dance</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Commercial Music or Stagecraft</b>	<b>5 units</b>
	Advanced Drama	10 units
10th grade	<b>SOCSA Dance</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Stagecraft	10 units
11th grade	<b>SOCSA Dance Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Commercial Music	10 units
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA	10 units
12th grade	<b>SOCSA Dance Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Theatrical Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA	10 units

### **Visual Arts**

9th grade	<b>SOCSA Drawing &amp; Painting</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Computer Graphics	10 units
	Photography 1 A/B	10 units
10th grade	<b>SOCSA Drawing &amp; Painting</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Sculpture/Ceramics 1 A/B	10 units
	Color Photography	10 units
11th grade	<b>SOCSA Sculpture/Ceramics</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Advanced Drawing & Painting	10 units
	Advanced Photography	10 units
12th grade	<b>AP Art History</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Special Projects—Art	20 units

**Theatre**

9th grade	<b>SOCSA Advanced Drama</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Stagecraft</b>	<b>5 units</b>
10th grade	<b>SOCSA Advanced Drama</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Stagecraft	10 units
11th grade	<b>SOCSA Actors' Repertory</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Theatrical Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA	10 units
12th grade	<b>SOCSA Actors' Repertory</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Theatrical Production	10 units
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA	10 units

**Theatre Tech**

9th grade	<b>SOCSA Stagecraft</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>SOCSA Advanced Drama</b>	<b>5 units</b>
10th grade	<b>SOCSA Stagecraft</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	SOCSA Advanced Drama	10 units
11th grade	<b>SOCSA Theatre Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Lighting and Sound</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA	10 units
12th grade	<b>SOCSA Theatre Production</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	SOCSA Performing Arts Electives	20 units

## **Music**

9th grade	<b>Choir, Band, or Orchestra</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE or Marching Band PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Commercial Music</b>	<b>5 units</b>
10th grade	<b>Choir, Band, or Orchestra</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>Drama/Musical Comedy PE or Marching Band PE</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Vocal Production	10 units
11th grade	<b>Choir, Band, or Orchestra</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	<b>AP Music Theory</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	Drama/Musical Comedy FA or Marching Band	10 units
12th grade	<b>Choir, Band, or Orchestra</b>	<b>10 units</b>
	SOCSA Performing Arts Electives	20 unit

## **Academy Completion Requirements**

**All SOCSA students must take at least one SOCSA class each year at Dana Hills in order to qualify for a medal or certificate.**

### **Medal**

Upon graduation from Dana Hills High School, SOCSA Seniors will be awarded medals based on their completion of the basic requirements for the major field(s) in which they have studied. A Gold, Silver, or Bronze medal will be received as shown here:

#### **SOCSA Bronze Medal**

75 units (including all units required for the major field)

#### **SOCSA Silver Medal**

100 units (including the 75 units required for the major field)

#### **SOCSA Gold Medal**

120 units (including the 75 units required for the major field)

**NOTE:** Visual Arts students may receive the Bronze Medal after completing 40 units (including all the units required for that major). Unit totals for the Silver and Gold Medals will be the same for all majors. Students with two or three majors will have some overlapping of required courses for each major, but will receive a Silver or Gold Medal after completing 100 or 120 units combined.

### **Certificate**

Every student who takes at least one SOCSA class each year, but doesn't complete the minimum requirements for a major (70 units plus passing SOCSA Juries each year), will receive a certificate from the SOCSA program. This certificate will indicate the completion of some of the requirements for a major and consistent participation in the program.

## **Academy Policies**

### **Eligibility**

**Academics:** SOCSA students must maintain an overall Grade Point Average of 2.5 each semester in all SOCSA and Dana Hills High School classes. In addition, they must maintain a 3.0 average in their major area of arts study. The grading policy for each SOCSA class will be explained in detail by the instructor of that class. At the end of each semester, transcripts will be evaluated, and those students whose GPA is below the minimum in either case will be placed on a one-semester Academic Probation, and a letter will be sent home informing parents or guardians of the probationary status.

**Behavior:** It is a privilege to be in the Academy. Students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times to all administrators, instructors, staff members, parents and fellow students. The Dana Hills High School Student Discipline Handbook will be in effect during all SOCSA classes, events, and activities. Students who are deemed by the SOCSA faculty to be a discipline problem in or out of class will be placed on a one-semester Disciplinary Probation, and a letter will be sent home informing parents or guardians of the probationary status. In addition, any student who is on strike 4 at DHHS will be automatically placed on SOCSA Disciplinary Probation.

***During the probationary semester, students on Academic or Disciplinary Probation may participate in all SOCSA events during class time, but are prohibited from participating in after school activities and/or productions. If after school activities and/or productions are a part of the student's class grade, alternate assignments must be given. During this time, special emphasis will be placed on overall academic performance and behavior. At the end of the probationary semester, students on Academic or Disciplinary Probation will be re-evaluated, and, if academic performance and/or behavior have not improved to the minimum levels, permanent removal from the SOCSA program will result. A letter informing parents or guardians of this action will also be sent home.***

## Program Costs

Dance – Theatre - Vocal..... \$400 per year for one major  
Visual Arts ..... \$300 per year for one major

### Instrumental:

Concert Band/Wind Ensemble/Jazz band & Musical Theater .....\$200 per year

Orchestra.....\$200 per year

### Marching Band, only offered 1st semester:

- General .....\$250

- Marching Band Drum Line .....\$800

- Marching Band Color Guard .....\$800

*NOTE: Total SOCSA Student Instrumental Music Registration Fees are capped at \$1,000.00. Other "equipment fees" may apply. See SOCSA Band Director, Mr. Wade, if you have any questions.*

Double Major..... Add \$100 per year to above fee

Triple Major..... Add \$200 per year to above fee

The fee is due at the time of registration; a late charge of \$50 will be assessed if payment is not made **on or before September 5, 2008**. Please see item # 4 on page 11 of this handbook and the Volunteer Program information for additional costs which may be incurred. SOCSA Fees are non-refundable. Families with financial needs should submit a letter of hardship to the Artistic Director, Ray Woods. Guidelines for financial aid are determined by the State of California's Income Eligibility Guidelines for Free and Reduced-Price Meals.

### **Use of Facilities**

SOCSA and all school facilities must be treated with care and respect. The equipment and supplies that have been provided are delicate and expensive. Our rooms and furniture are heavily utilized. **No food or beverages are allowed in any SOCSA classroom, performance area, storage area, or office. YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER IS EXPECTED AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.** Students who mistreat our facilities or ignore the rules for usage of rooms and equipment may be placed on Disciplinary Probation, through the procedure outlined previously in this handbook.

### **Attendance**

Academy students are expected to maintain good attendance with no trancies or excessive absences. Attendance at all SOCSA classes for the full scheduled time is mandatory. Roll will be taken at least once during every class session and after breaks during periods 7 and 8. It is expected that students will be in class on time and ready to learn. After three (3) unexcused absences and/or five (5) unexcused tardies, students may be placed on Disciplinary Probation as outlined previously in this handbook. It is up to the instructor's discretion to determine whether or not a student's absence or tardy is excused and to determine what effect that may have on the student's grade.

**All absences must be reported to the Dana Hills High School attendance line (949) 496-6935 prior to the absence, or on the day of the absence in the case of illness. Also, in the case of Period 7 and/or 8 absences, BOTH the Dana Hills attendance line and the SOCSA office (949) 240-1994 must be called.**

### **Additional School Hours**

Period 7	Mondays and Wednesdays	3:00–5:10 PM
Period 8	Tuesdays and Thursdays	3:00–5:10 PM

A 5-minute break will be given at approximately 4:00; snacks and drinks will be available for sale during the break.

In addition, workshops, field trips, evening performances and rehearsals, and other events will occasionally be scheduled. SOCSA students are strongly encouraged to support these events with their attendance, and in many cases attendance will be mandatory. A written report following some of these events may also be required, and will become a part of the student's SOCSA Portfolio (described on page 9). These events will be announced ahead of time. Students are advised to wait for rides home inside the building after an evening event; loitering in or around the parking lot is prohibited.

### **PE Clothing for SOCSA Students**

SOCSA students who are not participating in the regular Dana Hills High School physical education or athletics program are NOT required to purchase the Dana Hills PE uniform. Students who enroll in SOCSA Marching Band should check with the instructor for required attire. Students who enroll in SOCSA Drama/Musical Comedy or SOCSA dance classes must provide the following attire and are required to wear a SOCSA T-shirt::

#### **Female Students**

SOCSA T-shirt  
Black tights or leggings  
Black leotard (tank/short-sleeved)  
Sports brassiere

#### **Male Students**

SOCSA T-shirt  
Black sweats or jazz pants  
White or black tank/T-shirt  
Dance belt/athletic supporter

#### **All Students**

Jazz ballet, tap and/or character shoes  
(as needed for class, announced by instructor)

## **Portfolios**

All SOCSA students will have a portfolio of their work in the files of the SOCSA office. These portfolios shall include examples of auditions, evaluations and juries, solos, programs from plays, recommendations, transcripts, resumes, photos, and any other information which may be necessary for future professional contacts and/or college admission procedures. An information sheet listing all the required material for your portfolio will also be available in each student's SOCSA file. Students should take care to keep the portfolio updated and complete, especially in the Junior and Senior year. Portfolios will be reviewed by each student's major field advisor at the end of the Junior year, so that appropriate additions and improvements might be made during the Senior year. This will become an important part of the collegiate and professional audition process..

## **SOCSA Juries**

At the end of each year of study, each student must present examples of his/her work in the major field of study to a jury of SOCSA faculty and arts professionals. These juries are an authentic assessment of students' progress at the end of each year and an opportunity to demonstrate those skills which have been acquired and to improve on those skills in the process. Students who do not demonstrate progress in the jury will be subject to a recommendation for extra training in the deficient area. If there are two years of unsatisfactory progress, a recommendation for removal from the SOCSA program may be made. The following should be prepared for jury presentations in each major field

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Dance:</b>       | one piece of choreography, totaling no more than three (3) minutes, and also be prepared to execute a dance combination given by a SOCSA instructor |
| <b>Music:</b>       | two contrasting solo pieces, totaling no more than five (5) minutes   |
| <b>Theatre:</b>     | two contrasting monologues, totaling no more than five minutes  |
| <b>Visual Arts:</b> | a portfolio of your work, to be presented to your SOCSA visual arts instructors   |

## **Casting Policy**

### ***To audition for a SOCSA production, a SOCSA student must:***

- ....be enrolled as a regular student at Dana Hills High School
- ....maintain regular (not probationary) status as a SOCSA student

All students who participate in the SOCSA program are encouraged to audition for any and all productions. Academy students are strongly advised to use all the techniques and skills acquired in the classroom in their audition. It is the policy of the SOCSA Theatre department to always cast the best performer — the performer who is most suited to a particular role in any production. As we search for the best performer, the intent is to promote a positive atmosphere where students have many opportunities to prove themselves in an unthreatening environment. Talent, work ethic, performance, SOCSA participation, and seniority are just some of the considerations involved when casting selections are made.

Students who are not cast in a main stage production should always look for other opportunities to perform in SOCSA events: Broadway Night, SOCSA Showcase, Choral and Instrumental Concerts, Drama Class Plays, Oldies Night, Opera Night, Jazz Night, Improv Shows, etc. Students and parents should keep in mind the fact that SOCSA is an educational training ground for learning all aspects of the theatre and other arts. Appearing in a play or musical is only a small part of what students do here in SOCSA.

### **Basic guidelines for casting are:**

1. The best person, in the director's opinion, will always get the role. It is the director's absolute right to select the cast he or she wants; otherwise he/she is not really the director of the show!
2. If two students of equal ability are being considered for the same role, preference will be given to the one with the most seniority.
3. Auditions, as a rule, are cold (no music or scripts are issued ahead of time). If, as an exception, scripts or music are issued, they will be given to all those auditioning at the same time. Everyone auditioning should take the time to familiarize themselves with the play or musical in which they hope to be cast.

# Parent Involvement and Requirements

## 1. Program Costs:

The SOCSA Academy cost is outlined in detail on page 7 of this Academy Handbook. Additional production costs, material costs, and other miscellaneous expenses may be required throughout the school year.

## 2. Volunteer Program:

Participation in our Volunteer Program is vital to SOCSA and is outlined in detail in your SOCSA registration packet. This program will allow parents to volunteer ahead of time for specific tasks throughout the year. Those parents who are unable to participate in the Volunteer Program are asked to contribute an additional \$300 to SOCSA.

## 3. SOCSA Concession Cart (“SOCSA Cart”):

This important fundraiser contributes a significant amount to SOCSA every year. The SOCSA Cart is open to provide hot and cold snacks after school (during periods 7 and 8). It is available to all DHHS students, especially those who have after school classes and activities. Every day, two volunteers are needed to staff the SOCSA Cart from 2:00 to 5:00; this includes set-up, break-down, and reporting of daily receipts. Please see the Volunteer Program for more information and to participate in this much-needed fundraising effort.

## 4. Productions:

If your child is cast in a production, please be advised that each person in the cast and crew will be required to pay a production cast/crew charge as specified by the director of the show. In addition, each cast/crew member must provide a specified number of volunteer hours during the run of the show (rehearsals and performances). A family member can take on these extra duties by volunteering to serve and clean up at cast meals, bringing dinner for one of the meals, or bringing concession items at one or more of the performances. The amount of the production charge per student and the number of volunteer hours will be determined and announced by the director of each show.

## 5. SHOWCASE – An Artistic Celebration!

Showcase is our annual fundraiser gala and celebration which is held at the end of the school year. This event showcases the talent of our students in all areas of the Academy – dance, instrumental music, theatre, visual arts, and vocal music. All students are encouraged to participate in this exciting event. Auditions usually take place in the early spring. Information regarding the date and location will be provided during the school year on our website, eMail and by faculty.

## The SOCSA Foundation

The SOCSA Foundation is a non-profit organization, comprised of SOCSA parents and community friends, whose purpose is to fund the financial needs of the SOCSA Academy. The Foundation supports SOCSA through its membership collections and fundraising events, including the SOCSA Showcase, Concession Cart, and other events throughout the year. **Without the Foundation, SOCSA would cease to exist.**

In the 2007-08 school year, the Foundation generated income well over \$250,000 for SOCSA's financial support. This includes membership charges, income from grants, donations, fund-raisers, etc., which are used to defray the many expenses which the Capistrano Unified School District is unable to cover. Funds are utilized for SOCSA faculty support and expenses, office and administrative expenses, professional walk-on coaches for our students (dance, drama, voice, piano, instrumental, visual arts, etc.), student scholarships, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The continued success of the Foundation is directly linked to the survival and enrichment of SOCSA. Every year the Foundation relies on the generosity and assistance of parents and members of the community, who support our mission to offer a high quality arts education at Dana Hills High School. **Please see the Volunteer Program booklet, included with the SOCSA registration packet, to assist us in any way you can!**

### 2008-09 SOCSA Foundation

#### BOARD

Alan Wickstrom, President  
Carla Bentson, Treasurer  
Orly Taitz, Assistant Treasurer  
Steve Gross, Secretary  
Kathy Vescera, VP Membership  
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# SOCSA

## SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL *of the* ARTS

DANCE • INSTRUMENTAL • THEATRE • VISUAL • VOCAL

[www.SOCsArts.org](http://www.SOCsArts.org)

