



Creativity
explored.







The arts are fundamental

to our humanity – and to an
Agnes Irwin education.

Our studio arts, media arts, photography, theater, music, and dance programs invite girls to dream big, stretch their brains, and ditch their comfort zones. In classes, performances, and clubs, our students are developing the skills our 21st-century world — and workplaces — need. Like creativity. Emotional intelligence. Innovation. Problem-solving. And critical thinking.

Led by a faculty of juried visual artists, published playwrights, and professional performance artists, students delve deep into the art of self-expression and discover the artist within.





THEATER

Theater at AIS empowers students to explore all aspects of the art: acting technique, voice, script writing, directing, marketing and publicity, lighting and sound, stage crew, and set design.

Theater opportunities start in Lower School, with our PreK students performing on the big stage in the West-Wike Theatre. Middle School students continue to grow their skills through theater classes, a fifth grade performance, and our Middle School musical. In Upper School, students can study theater history and practice in the first two years, after which they can specialize in production direction, playwriting, or acting, and participate in the fall musical, play, various cabarets and clubs, or join our repertory company (RepCo) board.

MUSIC

We pride ourselves on being a singing school.

Lower School and Middle School music classes are based on a sequential curriculum integrating the Kodály Method that instills the joy of singing. Upper schoolers can participate in our choir, or audition to join the Bel Cantos, our select a cappella ensemble that performs throughout the community in concerts, benefits, and inter-school events. Middle schoolers have the opportunity to participate in various music activities, including the Middle School choir, called the Grace Notes, as well as the Middle School musical. Past performances have included *The Music Man Jr.* and *The Little Mermaid Jr.* Starting in third grade, we offer elective group instrumental instruction, and our Upper School students can elect to specialize in music theory, composition, and arranging. In addition, music students can utilize our state-of-the-art piano lab and composition room to flex their creative muscles and experiment with writing original pieces of music.

DANCE

Dance at AIS focuses on both the artistic expression and physical benefits of this art form. The diverse program includes technique through ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, ethnic, and social dances. A class in choreography allows dancers to create their own works that are part of our annual Dance Motion recital. Middle schoolers are introduced to the aesthetic elements of dance through movement classes.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is an all-encompassing program with a stimulating rubric developed by the school's expertly trained photography instructor. In this program, students are exposed to fundamental photographic techniques, including traditional photography (darkroom), digital photographic technology and alternative processing techniques, with opportunities to further improve their skills in advanced and specialized courses.



MEDIA ARTS

The Media Arts program at AIS introduces students to the elements and principles of design and how they are applied to the world of digital design and communication.

Through the hands-on use of digital technologies and access to a state-of-the-art Mac Lab, students develop unique and personal expressions in design and communication with an emphasis on creative problem solving and independent thinking.

STUDIO ART

Studio Art is a deep and varied program at AIS. Throughout the program, students in all three divisions explore the elements of art and how those elements apply to both their classroom activities and their daily life. The carefully sequenced Studio Art classes focus on and explore the fundamentals of visual art, two-dimensional design, three-dimensional design, ceramics, and drawing.





We believe everyone can learn to

*“think like
an artist.”*

In Upper School, students choose from an array of classes that build on basic art theory and provide the opportunity to specialize in a particular area of interest. The offered courses vary yearly, and have recently included:

Artist as Entrepreneur
Bel Cantos
Ceramics
Choir
Instrumental Ensemble
Media Arts
Photography
Piano Lab
Studio Art
Theatre
Theatre Production:
Direction and Practice
Visual Arts



Meet the Faculty

MURRAY SAVAR Lower School Music & Upper School Choral Ensembles, Department Chair

- Temple University College of Music
- Kodály Center of America Seminars
- International Music Seminars
- Zoltán Kodály Institute (Kecskemét, Hungary)
- Cantorial Soloist/Accompanist, Temple Emanuel

KERI FARROW Studio Art

- Moore College of Art and Design
- Young Artists Program, Art Instructor and Site Coordinator
- Fun2Know podcast, Executive Producer

SOPHIE MILLER Studio Art & Media Art

- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Delaware Art Museum, guest teaching artist
- Peace Paper Workshop
- Room For Change
- Elementary Elementals

SARAH BOURNE RAFFERTY Photography

- University of the Arts (MFA)
- Atwater Designs, Founder & Owner
- National Art Teachers Association, Member
- Philadelphia Center for the Book, Member

ANN RAMSEY Theater

- Players Club of Swarthmore, Performer, Running Crew, Assistant Director
- Community Arts Center, Wallingford, Two-Time Artist-In-Residence
- Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia
- Gilbert and Sullivan Players, Philadelphia
- Penn Singers, Quadramics, University of Pennsylvania

TERRI SAULIN Studio Art & Media Art

- University of the Arts (MFA) and Moore College of Art & Design (BFA)
- Tiger Strikes Asteroid Gallery, Member & Press Coordinator
- Participation in: Philly Stewards, InLiquid Art, Clay Studio National, Woodmere 77th Annual

TRISH SIEMBORA Lower School Art

- University of the Arts, Continuing Education and Fiber Programs, Past Instructor
- Caterpillar Fur, Screen-Printed Textile Design
- Cape May Arts League, Member

DANIEL SOLDERITSCH Technical Theater

- Lehigh University
- King's College and The Haverford School, Technical Director
- The Eagle Theatre, Gaslight Theatre Co., and Pig Iron Theatre, freelance technical direction and design

KAREN STAIT Theater

- London Studio Centre
- Musical Theatre Director, Hammond Performing Arts (*We Will Rock You*, *Witches of Eastwick*, *Fame*, *Mary Poppins*)
- Estill Voice Training
- European Tour Lead Soloist: *Cats*, *Chicago*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Evita*
- Director: *The Subway*, *Coffee Shop*, *Graduates*, West End showcase

TANINA URBANSKI Dance

- Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Janet Sealey Arts Scholar
- American College Dance Festival, performer
- Koshare Dance Collective, producer, choreographer, performer

ELIZABETH WEIGLE Middle School Music

- Eastman School of Music & The Juilliard School
- Soprano soloist: Opera Boston, Chautauqua Opera
- Colorado Symphony, Rhode Island Philharmonic
- English Concert (Carnegie Hall, London and Paris)
- Faculty - New York Summer Music Festival
- Adjunct Faculty - Saint Joseph's University
- Soloist/Section Leader - Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

The Agnes Irwin School

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