



ART DEPARTMENT

OVERVIEW

At Holton-Arms, we believe that all students should have the opportunity to continue their artistic growth and earn new ways to express themselves visually. The art curriculum of Holton-Arms actively engages each student in the process of discovering her creative vision while acquiring technical skills and gaining historical and cultural perspectives. Art courses in the Middle School provide general introductions to studio art, photography and ceramics, and reinforce skills and concepts learned at the primary level. Courses in the Upper School offer the student opportunities to concentrate in one discipline. Students work closely with members of the art faculty who encourage inquiry, experimentation, and excellence. Studios are spacious, well-equipped, and open to students throughout the day. In addition to acquiring the various skills and techniques involved in a specific art discipline, the experience of creating art directly relates to development of critical thinking, mental discipline, self-confidence, and the ability to solve problems. The art curriculum provides developmentally appropriate and challenging training for each student to express herself while nurturing the artistic process so that it becomes incorporated into her daily life.

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

Drawing and Painting

Introductory level, Open to all US students

Advanced Drawing and Painting

Pre-requisite: Drawing and Painting

Year-long, meets as frequently as academic classes

Photography

Introductory level, Open to all US students

Advanced Photography

Pre-requisite: Photography

Year-long, meets as frequently as academic classes

Ceramics

Introductory level, Open to all US students

Advanced Ceramics

Pre-requisite: Ceramics

Year-long, meets as frequently as academic classes

Graphic Design Foundations

Introductory level, Open to all US students

All Upper School courses may be repeated for credit. Students who take multiple art courses, particularly at the advanced level, are encouraged to submit a digital portfolio with their college applications. See reverse for more detailed course information and Art Department contact information.

FURTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Ceramics courses focus on hand-building and visual communication through clay. Functional and sculptural projects are assigned in the exploration and development of personal expression. Students work with a variety of different clays and glazes, as well as an oxidation firing process in three electric kilns. **Projects and prompts vary every trimester in both introductory and advanced classes.** With each

successive enrollment, increasing emphasis is placed on individualizing the curriculum to accommodate the student's personal direction in the clay and construction method of her choice.

Drawing and Painting courses continue the study of two-dimensional studio art as visual language. The more complex issues of color, composition, and space are pursued through exercises in drawing and oil painting. While the use of traditional materials and techniques is taught, the focus of the course is to teach students to see the relationship between technical skills and aesthetic expression. **Projects and prompts vary every trimester in both introductory and advanced classes.** With each successive enrollment, increasing emphasis is placed on individualizing the curriculum to accommodate the student's personal direction in the medium of her choice.

Photography courses explore various ways of using the lens: landscape, documentary and portraiture. Students learn to use different films such as black and white, infra-red, and slow ISO films. The introductory course focuses on black and white film photography and student understanding of the darkroom. The advanced-level course includes both traditional photography, further development of student's darkroom skills, as well as work in the Digital Photography Lab. **Projects and prompts vary every trimester in both introductory and advanced classes.** With each successive enrollment, increasing emphasis is placed on individualizing the curriculum to accommodate the student's personal direction through her use of the camera.

Graphic Design Fundamentals includes design exercises completed by hand, foundational computer exercises to understand how to use the standard graphic design software, Adobe InDesign, and project-based prompts using both hand-drawn and computer-generated design that further develop students' understanding of design thinking.

Upper School Art FAQs

Are there any general art courses offered in the US?

No. General art courses covering a range of media and techniques end at the Middle School level. In the Upper School art courses are specialized.

What is the Arts Requirement for US students?

A minimum of 2 credits in the fine or performing arts is required for graduation. This requirement can be fulfilled by taking courses in visual arts, music, drama and/or dance.

What media does the US art curriculum cover?

US art courses specialize in Photography, Ceramics, and Drawing & Painting.

Do students have to specialize in a particular art throughout their US years?

No. Students often try more than one art discipline on the introductory and advanced levels, and, although it's difficult to fit into the schedule, some "specialize" in two disciplines.

What's the difference between an introductory and advanced art course?

The introductory art classes are trimester-long and meet half as frequently as advanced classes; grades in these courses are not calculated in the student's GPA. Advanced art courses are year-long, meet as frequently as academic classes, and students must take the introductory course as a prerequisite; advanced course grades are calculated in the student's GPA.

Why do students have to take an advanced class for a full year the first time they enroll?

We strongly believe that students in the visual arts need time and a sense of ongoing commitment to have an immersive experience where they can see what they are capable of creating. With this year, they are able to achieve a higher level of craftsmanship and performance, which in turn fuels their self-confidence and creative outlook. Additionally, when art students sense that they are in it for the long haul, they are more likely to understand intermittent challenges in context and are less likely to give up when they face difficulty. Once they have completed a full year at this advanced level, they can continue to be in an advanced class trimester by trimester, as their schedule allows.

Is it possible to concentrate on one discipline in the visual arts in the US?

Yes, students with an interest in a particular studio discipline are encouraged to take the advanced level course multiple times. With each successive enrollment in the course, students grow in their artistic skills and capabilities through a variety of projects and skill building techniques.

Does the Art Department assist students in making art portfolios for college applications?

Yes, the department provides the opportunity to have a digital portfolio created by a professional photographer in the fall of her senior year and the art faculty guide students through the portfolio process.

ART FACULTY

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