



## Fine Arts

THINKING CREATIVELY



7th Graders working on their Picasso Portraits outside; 1st Graders completing their artwork inspired by Piet Mondrian

**A**t St. Mark's, we seek to inspire creativity, curiosity, and playfulness in a child-centered environment. Our fine arts experiences are filled with joyful experiences, where students can express themselves in various forms. We are excited for our arts team to move back into their classrooms and re-establish spaces where imagination and innovation are encouraged! We caught up with our Fine Arts teachers, who shared their thoughts on the 2020-21 school year and their hopes and dreams for the future of arts at St. Mark's.



**Margaret Alvarez**  
Art Teacher

COVID changed our year in many ways, but it was my job to make space for our students to continue creating through the year. Our 7th graders completed Pablo Picasso portraits on Procreate - an iPad app, and our 1st graders completed artwork inspired by Jasper Johns and Piet Mondrian.

I am very much looking forward to the 2021-2022 school year and returning to the art room. In spite of the challenges of this year, I learned so much, and I'm grateful for the adaptation and flexibility that we experienced this year.



**Leti Hernandez**  
Middle School Music Teacher

In a normal year, our program provides our students with hands-on training with musical instruments. Our dance program allows our students to explore forms of ballet, hip hop, modern, and tap. Our musical theatre program provides students the opportunity to express themselves through acting and singing. Our 8th graders have the chance to train on audio and sound equipment and build sets and costumes.

This year, middle school students used iPad apps to learn to play various instruments: Ocarinas, Glockenspiels, and recorders. In addition, music was taught virtually to our distance learners. Our students were incredible this year; I was so proud of their dedication and interest in music!



**Sara Brannon**  
Primary and Lower School Music Teacher

One of the most challenging parts of the year was

not being able to sing on campus! Our Primary and Lower School music program is Koda inspired curriculum with a heavy emphasis on singing. It was sad to set that aside for the year, but it provided us with the opportunity to explore other things in the music room. We listened to diverse music, played instruments, and our older students completed independent research and project-based learning. 3rd Grade completed a unit on percussion instruments, culminating in a STEAM challenge to build their own instrument out recycled materials. 4th Graders studied different genres of Latin American and Caribbean music. They researched their genre, selected an example, created a presentation, and shared it with their cohort. I was so proud of the work that they put into this project! Our annual holiday performances are an important part of life on campus. While we couldn't gather on campus, we created the Countdown to Christmas. This was a fun way to showcase our students in a different format and provide some seasonal spirit to our community. Next year, I'm looking forward to rebuilding our choral program and, hopefully, welcoming parents back to campus for performances!