

Preparing a Portfolio*

** portfolio- a selective collection of your best and most recent work;
each school has its own specific requirements*

HINSDALE CENTRAL ART DEPARTMENT



DEVELOPING A PORTFOLIO

Start Early

The **more** work you create, the **more** work you can use in your portfolio.

Challenge yourself

Take advantage of each art course or lesson. Challenge yourself to take Honors or Advanced Placement courses.



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Maximize your summers

Most art schools and university art programs offer summer experiences for high school students. Supplement your high school experience with workshops or classes.

Drawing from life is expected.

Drawing from direct observation is valued over drawing from photographic resources. Do not include copyrighted imagery- portraits of famous people, published art or cartoons, or copies of professional art. For animators and architecture majors, drawing from life is also important.



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Explore ideas or themes in a series.

Strong portfolios include a set of works that show your personal concepts, themes, and working methods. Solid technical skill and art based on your own experiences and ideas can be developed in *Advanced level courses, Honors Portfolio, and AP Studio Art.*

Get feedback on your art.

During your junior year, ask for feedback from a knowledgeable artist or art teacher. Attend National Portfolio Day events and take notes on each work. Ask the reviewer what is missing from your body of work.



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Practice talking about your work.

Select a few pieces to discuss. Think about when and why you created the work. Describe what the work is about and how art materials reinforce this idea. Discuss how you selected to use materials and designed the work.



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Prepare your work

You can bring physical work or create a presentation on a tablet for interviews. Digital images will be needed for submissions to competitions, scholarships, and admissions. Images must be great. Keep one high quality image and then copy, resize, and label according to each school's specifications. Back up your files.

Read portfolio requirements

All schools have distinct requirements- always follow their directions. Some schools, such as RISD or CalArts, have required pieces. Other schools want a general portfolio.



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Study high quality student art

Art created by other high school students is important to study. Visit Scholastic Art Awards web site, art school web sites, International Bachelorette web sites, and AP Studio Art College Board web sites to see the best work created by teens.

Bring or include sketchbooks in your portfolio

College art programs love to see your sketchbook is active and important to you.

Include only your most recent work

As you mature, so does your work.



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Reflection Questions:

- What works should I use in my portfolio? (list 15- 25 pieces)
- Do you have great observational (from life) drawings?
- Do you have drawings of people and portraits from life?
- Do you have work that shows a grasp of illusionistic space?
- Did you include a series in the portfolio?
- What are your strengths? How might you strengthen a weaker area of your portfolio?
- Will you be ready to present your portfolio by early Fall of your Senior year?



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Websites of Interest:

www.npda.org

National Portfolio Day

www.artandwriting.org

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

www.apcentral.collegeboard.com

AP Studio Art



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