



# THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

## AT ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

All freshmen at SJA are required to take a Fine Arts course. Students have the choice of four courses (each .5 credits). To help best place students in appropriate classes, we ask that they complete the Fine Arts survey in the green sidebar on the left.

This survey is intended to get an idea of a student's background and interest in Fine Arts. It is not necessary to have experience in any of the Fine Arts areas. We know you will enjoy learning in the class you take!

### Freshman Fine Arts courses

**FA Drawing & Painting I:** Students will be introduced to a variety of projects and media with an emphasis on drawing and painting. By the time the student finishes this course, she will have a strong foundation and firm understanding of different media and techniques for future electives. Students will be required to purchase some art materials.

**FA Freshman Chorus:** Freshman Chorus is a performing ensemble that studies the techniques of singing through various styles of music. Basic music theory and sight singing are also studied. This ensemble performs at both the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Students do not need prior singing experience to be a part of the Freshman Chorus. Students should have a desire to sing and be able to match pitch.

**FA Acting I:** This course allows students to explore basic acting techniques, including improvisational theatre games, geared at increasing concentration, relaxation, listening, stage voice, collaboration, and creativity. Students will learn proper theater etiquette and elements involved in critiquing a theatrical performance. Character development, stage blocking, line memorization, and play analysis will be explored through scene work. Additionally, this course will provide the foundation that will prepare students who are interested in taking advanced

courses in the theater. Students do not need prior acting experience to enroll in this course.

**FA Instrumental Ensemble:** Students will develop individual musicianship through ensemble experience and exposure to a widely varied repertoire. The group will have one performance each semester. Mandatory attendance and participation at both concerts are required to receive credit for the course. The Instrumental Ensemble accepts students with previous experience in middle school band, or orchestra experience on violin and cello. Piano students are limited and only by audition. [This course meets twice a week from 7:15-8:00 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.](#)

*Prerequisite: proficiency with your instrument and instructor/departmental approval; student must provide her own instrument.*

**PE Dance 1:** Dance I for freshmen is for PE credit only. This is an introductory overview course that is designed to explore dance as an art form. Students will study dance conditioning, ballet, jazz, and modern dance. Emphasis will be on beginner dance technique, movement exploration through guided improvisation, and dance history.

*Prerequisite: none*



For more information regarding the SJA Fine Arts program, please contact:



DAVID  
KOWALCZYK

Department Chair  
Fine Arts  
[dkowalczyk@sja1840.org](mailto:dkowalczyk@sja1840.org)