

Arts

Visual arts students may pursue a wide range of artistic disciplines, including studio art, ceramics, photography, digital art, and sculpture. They may study a particular medium in depth or sample several from the broad offering of courses. While a strong technical foundation is stressed, equal emphasis is placed upon creative self-expression and developing the artist's unique voice. Advanced studies include a strong emphasis on critical and creative thinking, as well as portfolio preparation.

Performing arts courses offer students the opportunity to explore a variety of disciplines through both active participation in group ensembles and through classroom study. Courses of study are available for every level of student, from the beginner to the most advanced artist. The programs emphasize technical proficiency, collaboration, creative expression and stage presence, with the opportunity to perform in a variety of concerts, recitals and performances throughout the year.

One credit of visual and/or performing art is required for graduation.

Visual Arts

Note: Visual Arts courses are yearlong electives; however, students may request to switch visual art disciplines at the trimester break if scheduling allows.

Ceramics

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This course introduces the student to the many aspects of clay work. Students explore texture, form, and function through a variety of hand-built techniques such as pinch, coil and slab. Students gain an understanding of the many stages of clay from plastic to leatherhard, bone-dry, bisqueware and glazeware. They explore a variety of glazing and finishing techniques used in electric kiln firing. Students begin to explore throwing techniques on the wheel. With an eye toward ethnic, historic, and contemporary considerations, classroom assignments challenge the blossoming potter/sculptor to embrace creative thinking while developing basic skills.

Intermediate Ceramics

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This intermediate-level course allows time for the dedicated potter/sculptor to further develop and refine the skills begun in previous levels. It also provides an opportunity for students to take part in studio management through loading the kiln, pugging clay and making glaze test tiles. At this level, students begin developing more conceptual art, as well as refining their technique. The creative process is emphasized and expanded as each student risks failure to find success.

Advanced Ceramics

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

Advanced Ceramics is designed for the especially motivated artist. A commitment to independent work and a high level of technical competence are expected, as

students work with the instructor to develop and complete a series of original projects. We encourage students at this level to begin developing a portfolio, if they're interested in pursuing the Advanced Placement program in 3-D Art and Design. Projects are very open-ended and demand a high degree of critical and creative thinking, problem-solving and time to succeed.

Digital Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This course introduces students to techniques for making fine art through technological processes. Digital cameras, scanners, stylus and tablets, and professional software including Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Flash are used to create both still and animated work. Student work is printed on large-format printers, including an Epson 9890 with a 44-inch span. The digital art curriculum is supplemented with exploratory lessons, field trips to museums and local design firms, and a graphic design competition.

Intermediate Digital Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

Students continue to build upon their foundations in the elements of art and principles of design in Intermediate Digital Art. Exploration and experimentation are emphasized through projects that encourage independent research and original concept development. The curriculum is also supplemented with critiques, online investigations into the work of cutting-edge digital artists, and field trips to museums and local design firms.

Advanced Digital Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

Advanced Digital Art is designed for the highly dedicated artist. A commitment to independent work and a high level of technical competence are expected as

students work with the instructor to complete their breadth portfolios and develop a concentrated body of work with a theme and technique(s) of their own. Advanced digital art students may also seek recommendations to the Advanced Placement program in 2-D Art and Design.

Photography

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This course is an introduction to basic digital photography. Utilizing digital SLR cameras, iMac computers and Photoshop software, students explore basic camera operation, editing techniques and aesthetic concerns. Through in-class projects and multiple off-campus field trips, they complete a variety of projects in both black/white and color. Digital cameras are provided for students during the course.

Intermediate Photography

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This intermediate-level course explores representation and visual interpretation through black/white and color photography. Through a series of short-term assignments, students develop their photographic “eye” and build their portfolios of work. Coursework is supplemented with field trips to museums and galleries, as well as onsite shooting trips. Cameras are provided, but students are strongly encouraged to have their own digital SLR camera.

Advanced Photography

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

Advanced Photography is designed for the highly passionate photographer. Sophisticated techniques and thematic assignments are emphasized, and a commitment to independent work is expected. Students continue developing their unique artistic vision, with an eye toward enrolling in the Advanced Placement program in 2-D Art and Design. Cameras are provided, but students are strongly encouraged to have their own digital SLR camera.

Studio Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This course introduces students to a variety of fine art-making processes. Students develop conceptual and technical skills while studying drawing, painting, and mixed media. It is a survey course that teaches an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. Studio work is supplemented with critiques, field trips to museums and local artist studios, as well as group public art projects.

Intermediate Studio Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

This intermediate-level art course expands upon each student’s understanding of the elements of art and principles of design. The course encourages self-

discovery through individual assignments based on each student’s unique interests and talents. Students continue to build their portfolios by examining their own strengths and weaknesses on a regular basis. Studio work is supplemented with critiques, field trips to museums and local artist studios, and group public art projects.

Advanced Studio Art

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)

Advanced Studio Art is designed for the highly motivated artist. A commitment to independent work and a high level of technical competence are expected as students work with the instructor to build their breadth portfolios and develop a concentrated body of work with a theme and technique(s) of their own. Advanced studio art students may also seek recommendations to the Advanced Placement program in Drawing, 2-D Art and Design, or 3-D Art and Design.

Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design I**Advanced Placement 3-D Art and Design I**

This Advanced Placement course is for committed and self-disciplined students with a strong interest in developing as artists and creative thinkers. Students concentrate on either two-dimensional media (drawing, painting, printmaking, photography) or three-dimensional work (ceramics, sculpture), with the goal of preparing and submitting a strong final AP portfolio.

Recommended for Form V or VI

Prerequisite: permission of the department

Advanced Placement 2-D Art and Design II**Advanced Placement 3-D Art and Design II**

This Advanced Placement course is for students who complete Advanced Placement Art and Design in their fifth-form year and wish to continue developing their skills for a second year of artistic growth. The dedicated art student can further explore and expand his or her portfolio with an eye towards majoring in art in college.

Prerequisite: Advanced Placement Art and Design I and permission of the department

Performing Arts

**Note: Performing Arts courses are yearlong electives; however, students may petition to join at the winter and/or spring trimester as noted below if scheduling allows.*

A Cappella Ensemble | Advanced A Cappella Ensemble

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)*

This course focuses on a cappella style singing, covering genres from madrigals to jazz, rock, pop and more! Students learn basic musicianship skills, including intonation, vocal blending, diction, vocal production, breath control, and phrasing. The A Cappella Ensemble performs regularly throughout the year, both on and off campus. No audition is required; however, placement in Advanced A Cappella Ensemble is by audition only.

Guitar Fundamentals

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)*

Guitar Fundamentals is an introduction to guitar playing and is designed for students who have little to moderate experience on the instrument. The course covers the basics of the guitar including technique, scales, chords, rhythms, reading tabs and notes, improvisation, as well as learning guitar repertoire. No musical experience is required.

Improvisation

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)*

This dynamic, interactive course invites every student to explore the art of spontaneous performance in a collaborative, low-pressure environment. Designed for students of all experience levels, the curriculum focuses on the core principles of "Yes, And"—fostering adaptability, creative risk-taking, and effective communication. Through structured exercises and ensemble-based games, students develop the ability to think critically on their feet and build resilience through laughter. They experience the cognitive and social benefits of a classroom where high-level learning is fueled by creative joy.

Music Production: Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced

(Fall, Winter and/or Spring Trimesters)*

From beatmaking to songwriting, students master Ableton Live Suite, the premiere software for professional producers, DJs, and sound designers. This project-based course bridges the gap between traditional musicianship and cutting-edge technology, teaching students to view the computer as a powerful instrument for expression. From the rhythmic precision of house music to the avant-garde roots of *Musique Concrète*, students navigate the entire spectrum of digital sound. No musical experience is required.

Note: The Performing Arts courses listed below are yearlong electives.

Chamber Orchestra | Advanced Chamber Orchestra

This course focuses on chamber ensemble techniques, including musicianship, intonation, interpretation, and performance practice. Open to all string, brass, woodwind, and pitched percussion instrumentalists, the curriculum emphasizes the collaborative skills necessary for all-level musicianship. Students are encouraged to develop artistic autonomy through ensemble rehearsals and frequent public performances. Placement in Advanced Chamber Orchestra is by audition only. *Prerequisite: three-year study of an instrument or permission of instructor*

Jazz and Rock Ensemble | Advanced Jazz and Rock Ensemble

Discover the intersections of jazz, rock, funk, and pop in this high-energy performance class. Designed for instrumentalists, this course emphasizes improvisation, stylistic versatility, and collaborative performance. Students study iconic repertoire while developing the ear and technique required to excel in modern musical settings. This course takes students from the practice room to the stage. Placement in Advanced Jazz and Rock Ensemble is by audition only.

Prerequisite: two-year study of an instrument or permission of instructor

Music Theory

This course allows students to explore music outside of our performing ensemble groups. It is an introduction to the study of functional harmony, including scales, intervals, chord constructions, harmonic progression, counterpoint, and ear-training. The curriculum also emphasizes music analysis to strengthen the practical application of theoretical concepts. Students apply these skills by creating original compositions, which culminate in a community performance by the Chamber Orchestra. No musical experience is required. *Open to Forms IV, V and VI.*

Private Voice, Instrumental and Dance Lessons

Private non-credit lessons may be arranged through the Music Director or Arts Department Chair. An additional fee will be charged.