



Middle States  
Association



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PINEWOOD AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

## Grade 6 Electives | 2026-27

**Visual Arts 6** is designed for all experience levels and builds foundational skills and conceptual understanding to prepare students for further artistic study while developing creative confidence. Art is a way of solving problems, taking risks, and seeing the world differently -- habits of mind that extend far beyond the classroom. Students learn to revise, experiment, and see mistakes as necessary steps toward growth. Through scaffolded instruction, students explore media including drawing, comics, painting, and collage, balancing foundational technique -- such as perspective, composition, and character design -- with expressive exploration of how personal stories can be told through visual metaphor. By practicing the habits of artists -- observing, questioning, and reflecting -- students develop a more confident sense of personal expression and emerge with work that demonstrates technical growth and the creative resilience needed to find meaning through making.

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**Scouts 6** helps students build outdoor skills, leadership, and environmental responsibility through hands-on projects and real-world problem solving. Using the Design Thinking process, students learn to identify challenges, work collaboratively, and create practical solutions. Across a wide range of activities, students will have opportunities to think creatively while building confidence, teamwork, and communication skills. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to take initiative, care for the natural world, and connect their learning to their community. Students may also earn official badges from Scouting America as they demonstrate new skills. By the end of the course, students will have stronger problem-solving abilities, greater independence, and the confidence to make meaningful contributions both in and outside the classroom. **Note:** *this course comes with a 140 Euro fee, which is used for all official Scouts registration and badge fees.*

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**Dance** introduces students to movement as a way to express themselves, communicate ideas, and explore their creativity in a supportive and engaging environment. The course focuses on building strong foundations in movement, coordination, and body awareness, while encouraging students to see dance as a meaningful form of personal and artistic expression. While exploring movement, choreography, performance, and purpose, students grow from learning basic movements to creating their own short dance sequences. Step-by-step guidance helps students develop artistic habits such as trying new ideas, collaborating with peers, and reflecting on their learning. By the end of the course, students will have built not only physical skills but also confidence, creativity, and resilience, understanding that dance is both a physical discipline and a powerful language for human expression.

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In **Robotics**, students are introduced to the MYP Design Cycle and the iteration process through two comprehensive projects. During the first unit, they develop a 3D-printed multifunctional keychain designed to adapt to specific physical interactions and applications. This is achieved through rigorous research into existing products, creative ideation techniques, and consistent recording of progress in



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process journals, culminating in the production and formal evaluation of their final product. In the second project, students transition to robotics by developing a hopping legged robot engineered to navigate rough surfaces. Working in teams, they follow multiple iteration cycles that allow them to combine their ideas into the most effective end product based on objective data collection. By the conclusion of the course, students are able to use both 3D printing and robotic technologies effectively to develop sophisticated products.

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**Keyboard Lab** develops foundational musicianship through keyboard instruments, particularly the piano, and digital music tools. Learning an instrument builds discipline, coordination, and creative skills that transfer across disciplines and provide students with a lifelong relationship with music. Students learn basic technique, music theory, and ensemble skills while exploring how music is created, practiced, and performed. Instruction balances technical skill-building with creative exploration and expressive performance. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate growing keyboard technique and music literacy, the ability to read and produce basic musical ideas, and an appreciation for music as both an art form and a means of personal expression.

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**Language Mastery** supports students who are developing their English language proficiency to a level that allows them to succeed fully in Pinewood's academic program. Many of our community members may recognize this as *ELL*. English is the language of instruction across all courses at Pinewood, and students who are still building fluency deserve dedicated, respectful support to ensure access to, and success in, our program. Through targeted instruction in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, students develop the vocabulary, grammar, and communication strategies needed to participate confidently in academic contexts. Placement is determined by the administration based on language assessment. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate meaningful growth in English proficiency, stronger academic communication skills, and increased confidence in using English across all areas of school life.

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**Public Speaking** develops students' ability to communicate confidently, think critically, and engage meaningfully with the world around them. The ability to articulate ideas clearly, listen actively, and construct well-reasoned arguments is one of the most transferable skills a student can develop. Through a performing-arts-based approach, students apply design thinking to communicating about real issues and current events. Activities include structured discussions, speeches, debates, simulations, storytelling, and collaborative dialogue. By the end of the course, students will be able to shape messages for specific audiences, speak with greater confidence and clarity, construct and deliver structured arguments, engage respectfully in debate and discussion, and demonstrate stronger critical thinking when evaluating ideas and information.