ACA Visual Arts Scholars Program

What is the Visual Arts Scholars Program?

Founded in 2023, the Visual Arts Scholars Program (VASP) is a selective art-focused opportunity for Atlanta Classical Academy high school students that brings a challenge to our most gifted artists. VASP provides students a chance to take a variety of classes - from ceramics to photography - throughout their high school career and receive acknowledgement for their investment in visual arts. Their work culminates in the recognition of a fine arts seal on their diploma.

What are the objectives of the program?

The program is designed to strengthen the connection between visual arts and what ACA honors as the good, the true and the beautiful. Atlanta Classical's art curriculum provides a solid foundation for all of our students, and the Visual Arts Scholar Program builds upon it with three components to the program: in-school Studio Art Classes, after-school Applied Art Courses, and Community Service. Our goal is for students to dive deeper into what they love, without having to specialize too early in their education.

What will students achieve through the program?

Students will participate in 6 semesters of in-school Studio Art classes, 4 after school Applied Classes, and 20 hours of community service at ACA or ACA-sponsored events. The in-school Studio Art classes are taught by the Upper School art teacher who offers Studio Art I-VI. The after-school Applied Art Courses are offered 3 times a year in 10 week sessions, which are held two days a week and 1.5 hours each day. This amount of time allows a more specific and immersive experience. They are taught by in school and community teachers, which allows more voices in their training. Courses include photography, ceramics, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and more. Each course ends with an Art Show for students to showcase their work. Through Community Service, students are given leadership opportunities with teaching younger students, assisting in classes, school fairs, art shows, and demonstrations for the school community.

Upon completion of the VASP program, students are acknowledged with an Atlanta Classical VASP seal on their diplomas.

What are the qualifications for students to participate?

Art students may apply for the program as rising ninth graders. The application process includes:

- A written proposal describing their art involvement inside and outside the classroom
- A portfolio with 8 - 12 artworks of any medium
- An official portfolio presentation and interview, followed by an evaluation from our VASP interview team