

First Friday

Fine Arts Focus

A NOTE FROM FINE ARTS

October is when the arts at SDS really get rolling! After all the hard work our students have put in since August, they're ready to shine! *Treasure Island* sets sail in the VMB Theatre, while our bands take the stage (in costume!) for the Halloween Concert.

The Dent Gallery is just as busy: we'll celebrate Cecilia Ho's *FELT: Functional Beauty* with a reception early in the month, then welcome *Shared Practice*, featuring work by eight area College and University Art Educators, on October 26th.

Come catch a show or stop by the gallery to experience the creativity taking shape across campus this fall!

Sam Mitchell

FINE ARTS COORDINATOR

THIS MONTH

- 10/6** FELT reception, 4–5:30 · Dent Gallery
- 10/15** FELT: Functional Beauty closes
- 10/16** Band Bake Sale, 7:15 am–12 pm · Taylor Courtyard
- 10/23–25** *Treasure Island* · VMB Theatre
- 10/26** *Shared Practice* opens · Dent Gallery
- 10/28** Halloween Concert, 6:30 pm · Stone Gym



Lower School Self-portraits

The Dent Difference

A Commitment to the Arts

THIS MONTH: THE DENT ARTS ENDOWMENT

Established in 1999 in conjunction with the construction of the Mildred Harrison Dent Center, the Dent Arts Endowment reflects Spartanburg Day School's longstanding commitment to fostering creative and cultural engagement among its student body. This endowment enables SDS to guarantee that every single student has opportunities to experience visual or performing arts regardless of their chosen course of study.

Each year, the Dent Arts Endowment supports between 20 and 25 events, including guest artist engagements, artist residencies, live performances,

and gallery exhibitions. Its impact also extends beyond campus, funding student field trips and participation in off-campus community events that further enrich students' artistic and cultural experiences.

Collectively, these experiences ensure that the arts remain an integral and accessible component of an SDS education, giving students opportunities to experience, explore and engage with the arts throughout their time at the school.

100% of the student body is exposed to the visual or performing arts during their tenure.



1998 Mildred Harrison Dent Building Groundbreaking
Left to Right Vic Bailey III, Fred Dent, Rick Dent, Marion McMillan, Wallace Taylor

Fine Arts Around Campus

BAND • THEATRE



BAND

Halloween Concert

The annual 8th–12th grade Concert Band and Upper School Jazz Band Halloween Concert is a spooktacular tradition! Costume-clad players fill the Stone Gym with classic chillers and thrillers for a night of music, fun, and frights for all ages. It has become one of the highlights of the fall, and a chance for students to show how much they have grown as musicians since the start of the year. A reception will follow in the concourse, so come enjoy a frightfully fun evening of music!

COMING UP

Halloween Concert, 8th-12th grade Concert Band and Upper School Jazz Band

October 28th, 6:30 pm · Stone Gym

Drumline, Halloween Parade

October 30th

Band families: [sign up to bring food](#) for the reception; the link is in Mr. Smith's weekly email.



THEATRE

Behind the Scenes

A lot happens before the curtain rises on opening night. As the *Treasure Island* cast learns lines and blocking, the world of the show is taking shape around them. Students are painting ships and docks, preparing costumes and props, and learning to manage lighting, sound, and scene changes.

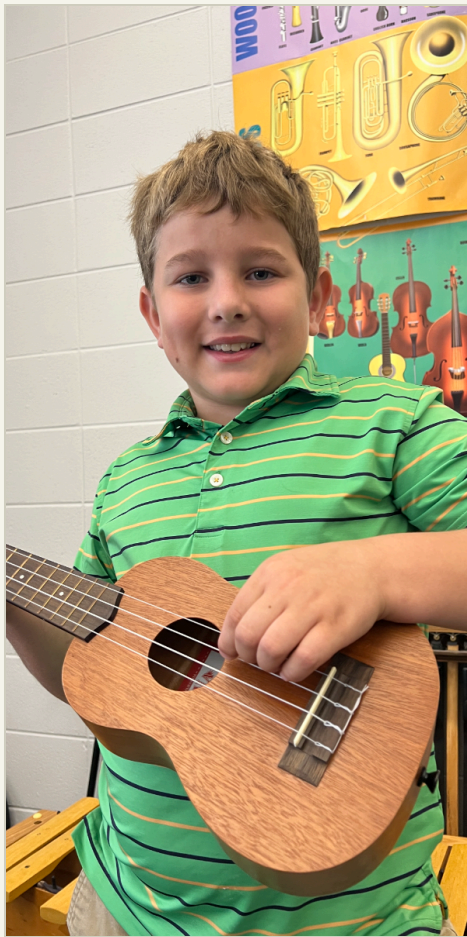
With each rehearsal, these pieces come together as the cast and crew learn to work as one company. By opening night, everything from the acting onstage to the technical work offstage will be powered by students, making every part of *Treasure Island* a true student production.

COMING UP

Treasure Island — Griffin Theatre

October 23 & 24, 6 pm; Sunday, October 25, 2 pm matinee · VMB Theatre

Free tickets available soon



MUSIC

Mallets, Strums & Recorders

Our Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders begin their instrument journey with Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels). Students learn to keep time together as an ensemble and individually while practicing basic rhythm-reading skills.

Starting in 3rd grade, students begin learning ukulele and tackle new challenges, getting their left hand and right hand working independently as they play chords! Students also learn to accompany themselves while singing.

In 4th grade, students continue to build their ukulele skills and add the recorder. An exciting time that teaches students note name reading skills and prepares them to read music as they transition into band in 5th grade.

COMING UP

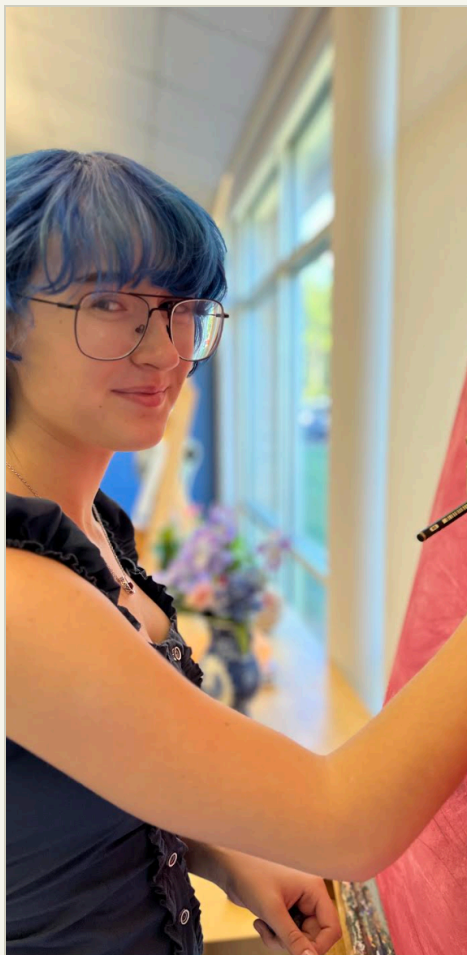
Preschool Holiday Concert

December 11th, 9 am • Milliken Gym

Lower School Holiday Concert

December 18th, 9 am • Milliken Gym

VISUAL ARTS



Three for Three: AP Art and Design

Did you know there are three AP Art and Design portfolios available to Upper School art students? Few students ever take on all three, but senior Kaleigh Huller is doing just that. After completing 2-D Art and Design as a sophomore and 3-D Art and Design as a junior, she is finishing with Drawing, which can be the most technically challenging of the three because it focuses on mark making in any medium.

In each portfolio, students follow a sustained line of inquiry, exploring a central question through a body of work over the course of the year. Along the way, the process of investigating, experimenting, and revising is just as important as the final product.

Look for Kaleigh's work, along with that of our other AP and senior artists, in the AP and Senior Art Exhibit, an off-campus tradition, this April 2027!

COMING UP

FELT Reception October 6th, 4:00–5:30 • Dent Gallery

Michael Webster, 7th Grade Architectural Design Residency

November • Middle School Art Studio

In the Gallery

EXHIBITIONS

FELT: Functional Beauty

Now on view in the Dent Gallery, Cecilia Ho's *FELT: Functional Beauty*, explores wool through art, craft, and material science. The exhibition coincides with Ho's artist residency with our 4th grade students, giving them the opportunity to create alongside a working artist. The Exhibit is on view through October 15, 2026.

Felt is one of the oldest textiles in the world, dating back long before spinning and weaving. When wool fibers are worked with warm water, soap, and friction, their tiny scales lock together into a dense, durable cloth. For thousands of years, people across Central Asia and beyond used felt for clothing, rugs, and even the walls of portable homes.

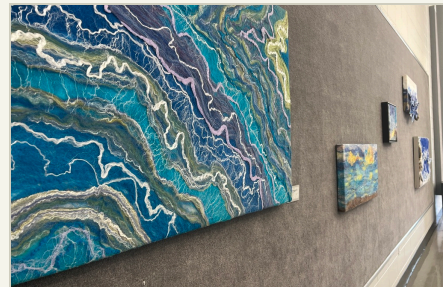
Ho's work carries that history forward, demonstrating how a material made for everyday use can also be a medium for art.

RECEPTION

October 6th

4:00-5:30

Work from every 4th grade student, made during Cecilia Ho's residency, will be on display for the reception. Guests of all ages are invited to add to an interactive felting project during the reception. Come create and celebrate!



NEXT MONTH

Feature ~ 7th Annual Dent Poetry and Prose

Theatre ~ Costume Design

Visual Arts ~ Wofford Professor Michael Webster

Middle School Residency

Band ~ Jazz Band

Music ~ Dance and Movement

FOLLOW ALONG

Follow us on Instagram for updates and day in the life moments from across the arts at SDS.

[@spartanburg_day_arts](https://www.instagram.com/spartanburg_day_arts)