

OVERVIEW

The Visual Arts Department believes that studying the visual arts is fundamental to human development and the human experience. The visual arts nurture and validate inspiration, intuition, creativity, and the recognition of beauty through study, practice, and reflection. Contributing beyond their intrinsic value, the visual arts benefit a range of learning environments, the local community, and society at large. Students are challenged to develop their aesthetic sense, problem solve, and to better understand and respect themselves and others through their study of the visual arts.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The visual arts program explores essential questions of art while integrating problem solving, critical thinking, art history, and technical skills. It fosters appreciation, passion, and understanding of the visual arts while nurturing the students' artistic confidence and expression.

The Middle School Visual Arts Program is the decisive link between the foundation skills taught at the elementary level and the highly personal, complex problem-solving skills attained at the high school level. The sixth through eighth grade art experience is a nine week program where students immerse themselves in the curriculum. Our program strives to instill in our students a passion for the visual arts, at a time when their developmental sense of self and natural abilities are beginning to truly blossom.

The curriculum encompasses Massachusetts Visual Arts Frameworks, essential questions, creative problem solving, art history, aesthetics, visual and media literacy, the elements and principles of design, as well as art assessment. The project assignments are sequential, building upon the previous year's skills and include: drawing, color theory, perspective, painting, clay building, using a viewfinder, abstraction, design, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media and much more.

There are two annual art shows and every student is represented in either the winter or spring show. Additional art opportunities are available at Wednesday's after school "Art Club." There, students can pursue additional time or an advanced focus in the painting studios, digital photography lab, pottery wheel/ceramics studios and more.

HIGH SCHOOL

High school visual arts courses are organized by subject, not grade, and offer students a range of specialized options in both traditional media and new digital technologies. All students entering the program begin with Introduction to Art, which builds upon their knowledge of art history, aesthetics, and the elements and principles of art. Introduction to Art also serves as a survey of the various other courses offered by the department, allowing students to reinforce and strengthen basic skills and sample a wide variety of materials and approaches. From here students continue their art studies by selecting from quarter-long offerings in Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Ceramics, Digital Photography I and II, Visual Communications, Special Projects, and a new course run in conjunction with the English and Drama Departments entitled Narrative Filmmaking.

For advanced art students, the high school offers two semester-long courses: Studio Art and Portfolio. In Studio Art, students take on extensive, independent art projects, allowing them to pursue their own interests and let ideas develop in a more thoughtful and considered manner. In Portfolio, students build the collection of their work necessary for admission to art school, completing a variety of projects and preparing their pieces for submission. They also attend presentations from area colleges about further study and careers in the visual arts. A year-round Art club provides students with access to the studios after school as well as opportunities to work with visiting artists or visit area museums and galleries.



Visual Art Curriculum