



Studio Block Offerings - Fall 2021

We're excited to offer a strong slate of studio blocks for the fall semester. Studio Blocks will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during B & C blocks. Students will be asked to indicate their interests on a Google Form. This information below is designed to help students make appropriate choices. We're also excited to continue offering instrument lessons.

- *All students are encouraged to take studio blocks. Students are required to take studio blocks for a minimum of three periods each semester.*
- *7th grade students are required to take a one semester foundational Introduction to Guitar course either first or second semester.*
- *All middle school students must take one music studio block or lesson, and one art/other studio block.*

Tuesday and Thursday Double Block, B Block (10:00-10:50)

Poetry with Lauren Schmidt (10-12)

In Poetry, we will alternate between two different types of poetry workshops: the generative workshop, where students both write new poems based on prompts and exercises we do in class, and the feedback workshop, where students offer suggestions for revision. The course will place an increased emphasis on in-class writing, so students should come prepared to work on new poems and/or revisions at least once a week. By the end of HS Poetry Studio Block, students will have drafted and revised at least seven new poems. Students in this course will be encouraged (though not required) to share their work either at an Academy reading or with the editors of *2West*, the school's literary magazine, for possible publication.

Tuesday B & C, Double Block (10:00-11:50)

Art Offerings

Beginning Wheel Throwing with Eric Smith (grades 7-12)

This course has a prerequisite: Students must have taken Beginning Ceramics. In this class we will learn all of the fundamental building blocks of working on the potter's wheel. From preparing your clay, gathering your tools, centering, opening, pulling up the walls and developing the muscle memory to do it again and again. It's not easy, but it's incredibly gratifying when it all "clicks". From cups to bowls we will create useful and beautiful objects. Intended for those with no or very little previous clay experience. This course is limited to only five students.

Tuesday, B Block

(10:00-10:50)

Art Offerings

Things in Space: Sculpture and Installation with Rafael Kelman (grades 7-9)

In this class, you will develop techniques in carving, casting, building and modeling in a range of materials including plaster, cloth, clay, paper, cement, string, and found objects. You will make drawings, models, and sculptural objects in varying scales; you will participate in a collaborative, public installation; you will engage with the artwork and ideas of a wide range of artists and thinkers; you will make things for both outdoor and indoor spaces. In our making, looking, reading and talking, we will explore questions about and beyond art: what is our relationship to the objects and spaces that surround us? What makes a thing into art? How do objects carry meaning? How have we transformed the land? How should we transform the spaces we inhabit?

Project Upcycle: Refashioning Garments with Heather Micka-Smith (grades 7-12)

Students will learn about creating clothing and accessories as we refashion old garments into new wearable goods. We'll examine ideas and trends related to sustainability in fashion design as we explore a variety of materials and construction techniques. Materials will be provided, although students may bring pre-owned materials to work with as well. No previous sewing experience required.

Advanced Illustration with Riley Brown (10-12)

Students will further develop observational drawing and painting skills, using charcoal, acrylics, and oil paint, as well as instruction on digitally editing and presenting work. Students will focus on a larger research project after developing their foundational skills, creating a series of personal works developing their individual artistic voice around a research subject of their choice.

Music Offerings

Hands on Sound for Film with Andy Cass (7-12)

We'll be adding sound effects and audio to several video clips across a wide variety of genres. If you've ever been interested in making your own movies, or just curious about recording and using DAWs (recording software) this is the class for you! Every week we'll work on a video, adding sound effects, background noise, music, and learning how to mix it all together using Garageband, Logic, or Reaper.

Intro to Songwriting - Max Wareham (for beginning songwriters)

Do you love music and want to try your hand at writing songs? Do you already write songs and want to learn more about music theory? In Intro to Songwriting we will study our favorite songs and explore what makes them work. This is a hands-on course and we will do several songwriting exercises together and workshop each other's ideas. We will discuss common cultural perceptions of songwriting and the history of songwriting, as well as exploring some of the nuances of the creative process and writer's block. We will also study basic music theory to use in the process of songwriting. In this course, students will develop an understanding of the mechanics of songs and a confidence in their ability to create their own, informed by a knowledge of the creative process and songwriting's role in our culture. Readings and exercises will be assigned each week. Basic ability to play an instrument is required, or student must be actively enrolled in private lessons.

Women Who Rock with Karl Helander (grades 9-12)

Women Who Rock celebrates the important and often underappreciated influence women have made in popular music throughout the decades and across all genres. Students will be encouraged to pick up an instrument, grab a mic, and push their boundaries.

Other

Beginning Chess with Michael Campbell (7-12)

The introductory block will be very similar to those of previous years: We will begin by learning chess notation, (the language of chess). From there we will begin to look at basic opening theory, essential tactics, different forms of check mate and how to employ them. We will rely heavily on chess puzzles to illustrate many of the ideas.

As always, at least half of each class will be devoted to having students play actual games against one another--arguably the best way to learn the game.

Coding (online, in partnership with Whizara - 7-12)

Computers are all around us, and they seem like incredibly smart devices. However, you might be surprised to learn that everything that a computer does is represented by many 1s and 0s called binary code. This means all programs that run on a computer are just manipulating these 1s and 0s. However, it would be incredibly tough for a human to tell a computer what to do using only binary code. It would be much better if we had a language closer to human language to tell the computer what to do.

Welcome to Python, a programming language that lets us give instructions to a computer in a simpler language that is then converted to binary. This lets us write much more complex programs in a fraction of the time. This course introduces students to text-based programming and lays a sound foundation of programming fundamentals. Through a mix of fun real-world programs and graphics, animation, and game-based engaging activities, the course provides a holistic understanding of the applications of coding while promoting creativity among students. Students learn programming concepts including variables, user inputs/output, conditionals, loops, functions, events and lists, that are transferable to any other programming language. The course ends with a project that puts together concepts learned during the course.

Dungeons & Dragons: Worldbuilding with Liam Birkets (7-12)

In Dungeons & Dragons: Worldbuilding we will design our own fantasy worlds, and lead heroic characters we've created on a universe-hopping quest using the tabletop roleplaying system Dungeons & Dragons (no experience required!). We will learn to draw maps at various scales (world maps, continents, regions, towns); draw inspiration from history and fiction to create unique and fascinating settings; imagine key characters and the roles they play in the world; explore the worlds' politics, history, and arts; contribute creative projects (written stories, music, drawings, etc.) to render the world more fully. These multimedia projects will take on life as settings for our D&D campaign, as we explore them through world-walking adventures.

Tuesday, C Block (11:00-11:55)

Art Offerings

Basket Weaving with Charlene Neeley (grades 7-12)

In basket weaving class, students will work with reed, which is the inner core of the rattan vine, to make a variety of baskets both functional and decorative. We will use several different weaving techniques such as twining, continuous weaving, twill, and stop and start weaving. Students will have the opportunity to

experiment with colored reeds to produce different patterns. By semester's end you will have several baskets to take home!

Make + Mend Sashiko Sewing with Heather Micka-Smith (grades 10-12)

In this class students will learn to sew, decorate, and repair with the Japanese process of sashiko hand stitching. We'll learn basic patterns and experiment with artistic approaches. An emphasis on up-cycling materials, and the students' personal project interests are at the forefront of the course, and advanced or returning students may customize projects or build on existing projects and skills.

Beginning Analogue Photography with Nora Bates-Zale (7-12)

Learn all the basics of film photography--using a single-lens reflex camera, processing film, and printing in the darkroom! We'll learn a decades-old (almost centuries-old) process and draw inspiration from historic and contemporary photographers. Join us to become a part of a long-standing tradition in the Academy art world!

Introduction to Illustration with Riley Brown (7-9)

Students will be given introductions to observational drawing and painting, learning both how to handle a variety of mediums (charcoal, acrylics), as well as expressively communicate ideas through illustrative practice. A focus will be placed on developing fundamental skills of drawing from life, rendering figures and space, and imaginatively communicating ideas through visual media.

Music Offerings

Music Composition -- Liam Birkerts (7-12)

In Music Composition we will learn how to write original music for live musicians to play. Using the composition software MuseScore to learn playfully and intuitively, we'll cover the basics of staff notation, chord charts, and other ways of transmitting musical notions to the page, and then to other musicians for them to interpret. Along the way we'll learn how to write for different instruments, and cover the basics of Western music theory: intervals, chords, note values, scales... and we'll talk about using form to tell a story through music. Learning just as much as we need to get music onto the page, we'll write, experiment, and hear our music first, then go back to figure out what makes it work. No previous experience reading or writing music needed!

Generation Y2K with Andy Cass (grade 9-12)

Charlemont is back from summer break, and something seems... newer. For any student who has ever asked, "why can't we rock out to something written in the last 20 years?", this is the class for you. The aim of Generation Y2K is to play songs from the two decades that have just flown by us, with an emphasis on the more "indie" side of things. Songs you love but nobody knows, songs so fresh nobody's heard them before, and all in between. Bands with names like Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Foxwarren, and all other manner of silliness are included! Let's get contemporary!

Bluegrass Ensemble - Max Wareham (7-12)

Imagine the "high and lonesome" singing of old mountain ballads with the twang of instruments strumming along. Bluegrass is a music of the mountains and of the cities, and is a highly social music, oftentimes shared among musicians in jam sessions. In Bluegrass Ensemble, we will develop the skills required to understand how bluegrass music works and how to make it. We will develop a common repertoire of songs and will study the cultural history of the music. Students will learn "jam etiquette" so that they will feel confident participating in new bluegrass jams in a fun and respectful way. Weekly listening and readings will be assigned. Any students who play guitar, mandolin, fiddle/violin, banjo, or bass are welcome to sign up!

Other

Math Team with John Schatz (7-12)

Students will spend time grappling with logic puzzles, Ken Ken, and also, if interested, attempt some work in the New England Math League. Regardless of grade level or math class, students will find a challenge waiting for them here!

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Art Offerings

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Thursday B & C, Double Block (10:00-11:50)

Art Offerings

Advanced Clay with Eric Smith (7-12)

There is a prerequisite for this course: Students must have taken Beginning Ceramics. A more intensive study and exploration of clay as a medium to create works either sculptural or functional, this class is designed for students with a base knowledge of the material (preference given to those who have already taken a clay class with me). This class is more self directed, with individual attention and instruction to move students forward on goals that they will set for themselves at the start of the semester.

*students must indicate whether their interest is in wheel or non wheel work when signing up.

Thursday, B Block (10:00-10:50)

Art Offerings

Digital Photography with Matthew Cavanaugh (grades 10-12)

The secret behind an effective photograph is not the camera, or even the scene viewed through the viewfinder - it is in the mind of the photographer: this is where an image is created before it is committed to a memory card. In this workshop, you will not only master using your camera in manual mode, you will learn how to access your creativity and hone your vision. This course will include hands-on demonstrations with the camera as well as basic digital image editing techniques using Adobe Lightroom. We will discuss the work

of great photographers alongside your own photographs in order to better understand the fundamentals of composition to create compelling imagery. Expect to leave the class with a project you are proud of and a working knowledge of your camera.

Things in Space: Sculpture and Installation with Rafael Kelman (grades 10-12)

In this class, you will develop techniques in carving, casting, building and modeling in a range of materials including plaster, cloth, clay, paper, cement, string, and found objects. You will make drawings, models, and sculptural objects in varying scales; you will participate in a collaborative, public installation; you will engage with the artwork and ideas of a wide range of artists and thinkers; you will make things for both outdoor and indoor spaces. In our making, looking, reading and talking, we will explore questions about and beyond art: what is our relationship to the objects and spaces that surround us? What makes a thing into art? How do objects carry meaning? How have we transformed the land? How should we transform the spaces we inhabit?

Silk Painting with Susan Draxler (grades 7-12)

This will be an introduction to a variety of methods for painting on silk -- using silk paints, dyes, resists, and salt. Students will learn to stretch the silk on a frame in preparation to paint and to set the colors of finished paintings by ironing or steaming. Painting on silk is an ancient Asian art form and uses techniques that are similar to watercolor but the texture of the silk produces a very different look from that of paper. After practicing and experimenting with the various materials, students will be encouraged to develop their own style while completing finished pieces ranging from decorative wall hangings to functional items such as a scarf or tie.

Music Offerings

Introduction to guitar with Andy Cass (7)

Have you wanted to get into guitar but have found yourself frustrated and unsure of how to start? Did you give it a shot a few years ago and gave up, only to wish that you could try again? Come take Introduction to Guitar. We'll go through the basics on how to play the most common chords, beginner fingerpicking, using a pick, and learn a few songs! *Don't have a guitar? The Academy can provide you one for this class to take on a test drive and see if you take to it!*

Songwriting Workshop with Karl Helander (for experienced songwriters)

If you have any experience writing songs and you'd like to expand your craft, this is the course for you! In this workshop-style course, we will explore songwriting in a freeform setting that will culminate in an ensemble performance of our original compositions.

Other

Advanced Chess with Michael Campbell (grades 7-12):

Last semester we examined important middle game concepts: Open and half open files and diagonals, pawn structures, among others.

This semester we will take a close look at openings. Our focus will not be on memorizing a string of moves, but on going through the first four or five moves an opening one move at a time, understanding what the thinking behind each successive move is and what middle game positions players are struggling to achieve. As usual, the second half of each day will be devoted to head to head play.

Students who have not taken the studio block before but who are interested in taking the advanced section should contact Michael at mcampbell@charlemont.org.

Yoga with Jocelyn O'Shea (7-12)

This class incorporates traditional yoga postures, breathing techniques, and philosophy based on kindness as a way to find balance for both internal and external experiences. Class is open to absolute beginners and experienced yogis. Modifications will be offered to accommodate everyone's individual needs. Please wear comfortable clothing that allows for a full range of movement and relaxation. Yoga mats and props are provided by the school, personal mats and props are also welcome.

Thursday, C Block (11:00-11:55)

Art Offerings

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Creative Writing with Hannah Smith (grades 7-9)

This course is a workshop in creative writing for students in 7th through 9th grade. Each class, students will generate freshly written work guided by unique writing prompts. Students will be encouraged to engage all their senses and will be introduced to various poets, images, objects, and prose to help inspire their own writing. Students will be prompted to write from memory, imagination, or a combination. This course centers on the student's development of voice, growth in individual craft, and ability to unlock their creative thoughts.

Introduction to Animation with Riley Brown (9-12)

Students will be introduced to the medium of animation and several approaches to working within it, from using free digital tools, to low-budget methods of creating physical DIY animation. Classes will consist of screenings of unique work from throughout the history of the medium, plus several practices to develop their skills, leading to a final short film by the end of the course.

Music Offerings

British Invasion with Andy Cass (grades 7-9)

In 1964, four lads from Liverpool called The Beatles led a musical revolution in the USA. The term "Beatlemania" was used to describe their own uniquely frenzied following, but with bands among their ranks like The Rolling Stones, The Kinks, The Who, and The Animals, their collective reign was known as The British Invasion. In this ensemble, we'll learn and perform this timeless Brit-pop and rock 'n' roll. Simple forms, catchy hooks, a bit of distortion, and bold showmanship – how could you go wrong?

Off the Grid with Karl Helander (grades 9-12)

This semi-acoustic band will focus on vocal harmonies and creative arrangements. Our song choices will not be restricted by genre, era, or original instrumentation. You should be prepared to push yourself and work hard.

The Academy Chorus with Lily Sexton (grades 7-12)

There is no better reason to have a whole crowd of people in a room together than for them to fill that room with their voices. For those voices to be singing the same song, in harmony- well, that's even better. In the Academy Chorus, we will choose our repertoire to showcase the power of many voices singing together. Students are encouraged to help choose the repertoire. So bring your ideas for songs to learn to class! If you have always wanted to sing but were afraid to try, this class is for you. There is safety in numbers and there is also great beauty.

Private Lessons

30 minutes blocks, offered by our music studio block staff, sometimes outside of Tuesday & Thursday B & C blocks.

For those students who may be interested, we may be able to offer private music instruction. Our instructors will organize lessons according to instructor and student availability, including times outside of Tuesday & Thursday B & C blocks.. Slots for lessons will be limited. Students are responsible for their own instruments. If a student does not have access to an instrument, contact Karl Helander at khelander@charlemont.org

Guitar
Bass
Drums
Piano
Voice
Ukulele
Sax

Flute
Clarinet
Conga/bongo
(Tin)whistle
Mandolin
Audio Recording