



Studio Block Offerings - Fall 2025

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. Studio blocks will begin on September 9th. The information below is designed to help students make appropriate choices. Students are required to take studio blocks for at least three periods each semester. The fourth period can be used as a study hall, if desired.

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

Art

Beginning Wheel Throwing with Eric Smith (all grades)

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.

Animals from Clay with Sergei Isupov (grades 9-12)

In this class students will learn how to construct real and imaginary animals from clay slabs, volumetric and flat. After construction, students will paint with ceramic paints and glazes. During the semester students will build several exhibitions. Also we will discuss the selling aspect of art and how to price and name your own work.

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

Music Offerings

Academy Singers with Sarah Puckett (all grades)

If you're interested in building your vocal skills and making soulful blends with others who also love to sing, sign up for Academy Singers! In this class, we will explore the inspiring, intimate sounds of unaccompanied (a capella) or minimally accompanied vocal ensemble. Depending on the group's preferences, we'll draw on a range of repertoire, from moving a capella tunes by small ensembles like MaMuse and The Wailin' Jennys to protest songs popularized by great folk singers of the 60s like Pete Seeger and Joan Baez, to meditative music inspired by sacred chants from cultures across the world. Throughout the class we will learn a variety of physical, mental, and energetic tools that are at the foundation of good singing, which not only help us sound good but also make singing fun.

Intro to Jazz with Jared Cruz and Aedan Madden (grades 6-9)

What does it mean to snap on beats 2 and 4? In this group we will learn about what makes jazz music and how to listen and play it. Jazz rhythms, harmony, and improvisation will be explained from a ground up level, and we will learn some essential songs from jazz standard repertoire. We will also talk about some of the musicians that have influenced this genre and their historic significance and affect on other genres of music. Intermediate instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up but all levels are welcome!

Indie Pop 2k with Nick Clark and Vanessa Brewster (grades 9-12)

Music these days has gotten formulaic, boring and repetitive. It's time we dig deeper and find cool (or uncool), and unique songs that not many people know exist and spotlight the indie/alternative scene from the last 25 years and today to show the world that cool music is still out there, you just have to know where to find it!

Jukebox Rock and Soul with Scott Hoffman (grades 9-12)

Do you like good music? Soul, gospel, rhythm and blues, and early rock & roll are the building blocks of virtually everything we listen to today. This semester will look at work of some of the best vocal groups from the late 50s and early 60s. Doo-wop groups like the Flamingos, girl groups like the Crystals, and early soul from the Temptations all feature rich harmonies and an excellent rhythm section. Over the coming weeks, we'll listen, talk, and learn to play some of this material and prepare for an amazing performance at the end of the semester.

Art Offerings

Exploring Islamic Geometric Design with Kim Karlin (all grades)

Step into a world of intricate beauty and profound symmetry in Exploring Islamic Geometric Design. This course is for middle and high schoolers who are interested in discovering where art, history, and mathematics converge to create breathtaking architectural marvels. There is rich history and cultural significance embedded in Islamic geometric design. Architects and artists used simple tools to create intricate patterns that adorn some of the world's most iconic structures. Students will master the basics of geometric construction using a string and a pencil, and understand the principles of symmetry, repetition, and proportion that form the backbone of Islamic art. Then we will explore various types of geometric patterns, from simple star and rosette designs to more complex tessellations. Learn how to deconstruct and reconstruct these patterns, developing a deep appreciation for their underlying mathematical principles. The course will culminate with students creating their own stunning geometric patterns.

Mixed Media with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 6-8)

In this mixed media art class, we will begin by learning foundational drawing techniques before exploring a diverse range of mediums such as painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The course emphasizes material experimentation alongside technical demonstrations, offering a dynamic environment for artists to refine their skills, expand their technical knowledge, and deepen their conceptual understanding. Prepare to get messy and try new things!

Digital Photography II with Doug Mason (grades 7-12 - prerequisite: Digital Photography I)

A deeper dive into the world of digital photography. This is an advanced class in photography, focusing on composition and storytelling. Photography 1 or a clear understanding of the camera and lightroom is a prerequisite. We will cover composition, workflow and editing the photographic image. Through hands-on exercises, you'll develop practical skills and receive feedback. By the end you will develop a deeper understanding of how we read images and how to use them to follow your own creative instincts. We will

spend most of our time in the computer lab, so students will be required to spend at least 2 hours a week taking pictures outside of class time. Join us on this creative journey in digital photography!

Tuesday, C Block

(11:00-11:50)

Music Offerings

Academy Chorus with Sarah Puckett (all grades)

Carrying on the tradition of Five of Noon, this vocal group will learn to sing great songs from many different genres. This is not your standard high school chorus. Although we will aim to bring to life all the best things about traditional choral singing, we'll bring a different vibe to learning and singing the rich, multi-part harmonies in the choral repertoire, and we'll sing fun arrangements of non-traditional songs, too. If you love to sing, this group is for you!

Women Who Rock with Vanessa Brewster and Scott Hoffman (grades 9-12)

In this class, we will represent and honor a unique and powerful community of musicians by creating and refining a performance (or two) of their work. Be prepared to try a new instrument, to use your voice in a new way, and support your classmates as they do the same.

70s Jazz Rock with Jared Cruz and Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

Chorus! Synthesizers! Backbeat! Michael McDonald! This group will be covering the energetic popular music of the 1970's. We'll be digging into artists such as Steely Dan, Joni Mitchell, The Doobie Brothers, Chicago, War, and Van Morrison to name a few. Rehearsal will be spent diving into these tunes to do justice to the memorable sounds of this era, all levels of instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up!

Art Offerings

Mixed Media with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 9-12)

In this mixed media art class, we will begin by learning foundational drawing techniques before exploring a diverse range of mediums such as painting, printmaking, and sculpture. The course emphasizes material experimentation alongside technical demonstrations, offering a dynamic environment for artists to refine their skills, expand their technical knowledge, and deepen their conceptual understanding. Prepare to get messy and try new things!

Digital Photography I with Doug Mason (all grades)

Welcome to the world of digital photography. This is an introduction to the camera and the Lightroom workflow. We will cover exposure, composition and editing the photographic image. Through hands-on exercises, you'll develop practical skills and receive feedback. By the end, you'll confidently capture, edit, and present images. We will spend most of our time in the computer lab, so students will be required to spend at least 2 hours a week taking pictures outside of class time. Join us on this creative journey in digital photography!

Art and Politics with Rafael Kelman (all grades)

What do you want to say, and how do you want to say it? In this studio block, we will be exploring the intersection between art and activism. Each week we will spend some time looking at historical and contemporary examples of political art, including protest signs, murals, puppets, performance art and propaganda. We will learn different techniques to make stencils, murals, T-shirts, posters, zines, pamphlets, and more; we will explore the issues you care about and find the best way to engage your art with the world.

Thursday B & C, Double Block

(10:00-11:50)

Advanced Ceramics with Eric Smith (grades 7-12)

Prerequisite: Students must have taken an intro clay class: 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.

Dungeons and Dragons with Nathan Liberatore (all grades)

It's the game you love brought to you by Dungeon Master Nathan Liberatore.

Cooking with Cassandra Haffner (all grades): This cooking class will focus on recreating favorite family recipes in the Honey Bear Hut. This will allow us to sample food from rich backgrounds and cultures.

Thursday, B Block

(10:00-10:50)

Music Offerings

Garage Rock with Scott Hoffman and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-8)

In this studio block, you'll learn everything you need to know to play in a band with your friends. For our repertoire, we'll draw on classics from all genres and decades. It will be fun and challenging, so be prepared to work hard.

Bluegrass with Max Wareham (all grades)

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, often 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. Students who play guitar, mandolin, fiddle/violin, banjo, or bass are welcome to sign up

Jazz+ with Jared Cruz (grades 9-12)

Bebop, Blues, Bossa. This group will be learning advanced jazz repertoire and going over some of the more complex harmonies and concepts used at a higher level of playing. Intermediate - Advanced instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up!

Rock of Stages with Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

Tired of Academy studio blocks playing music your grandparents listen to? Are you someone who I've heard say the Academy needs to "do more rock and roll" blocks? Grab your hair spray, leather pants and throw up the devil horns because this is the studio block for YOU! Get ready to rock out to the loudest, most overproduced, overblown rock songs ever made! Get ready to blow the roof off Ellington with the loudest rock songs and bands to ever grace the lighted stage!

Art Offerings

Artistic Fly Tying with Adam Williams (all grades)

In this course, students will learn the art of artistic fly tying. We'll not only try some of our works out on the river by fly fishing in warmer months, but we'll also make some pretty incredible works of art that can be displayed at home.

Art Journaling with Erin MacLachlan (all grades)

Art journaling incorporates writing, imagery, color, texture, and pattern; it is a form of creative self-care, a record of thoughts, memories, emotions, and observations through images and words. In this class we will create a practice of creativity through mixed media: collaging, painting, drawing, writing, borrowing, stealing, noticing, playing, and exploring what inspires us. Artists will exhibit a sample of their work at the Spring Arts Celebration.

Timber Frame Design Project II with Will Miller (all grades)

Students in this studio block will continue working on the design and construction of a small timber frame shelter on campus started in the spring of this year. Students will first research timber framing principles by inspecting examples from various local frames, books and online sources. Using a technique called square rule, students will then learn how to lay out the joints of the frame onto pine timbers from a local sawmill. Finally, students will engage in cutting the joints with the goal of raising a finished frame by the end of the semester, barring time constraints. No prior experience with woodworking is required. A significant portion of this studio block's classes will take place outdoors.

Sewing with Sarah Guzzetti (grades 9-12)

This course will explore basic hand sewing and patchworking techniques. Students will have time to work on their sewing skills, and also plenty of time to experiment with color, pattern, shape and texture combinations. This will be a time to create your own patterns, and hone your particular vision. Each student will complete a small project, such as a pillow, wall hanging, or small quilt.

Thursday, C Block (11:00-11:50)

Music Offerings

Intro Guitar with Jared Cruz (all grades)

In this studio block students will learn the fundamentals of the guitar. This includes open chords, major and minor scales, basic barre chords, and how to use them. Essential guitar repertoire will be learned this semester and we will go over the role the guitar has in different band settings. All levels of players are encouraged to sign up and all will walk away with something new learned about the guitar!

Verse and Voice with Vanessa Brewster (all grades)

In this class, students will explore songwriting and poetry as creative outlets for self-expression, identity, and collaboration. Students will learn poetic and lyrical tools, analyze songs and poems, and create original works. We'll center student voice and build confidence through writing, discussion, and optional performance or publication.

Simon & Garfunkel - 60s Folk with Max Wareham and Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

In Simon & Garfunkel we will sing the music of the legendary 1960s duo and the artists they inspired. Their songs are sometimes haunting and dark, other times strong and uplifting, almost always in beautiful harmony. Their lyrics stand alone as poetry, their instrumental parts are winding and clever. Simon and Garfunkel inspired a generation of artists fingerpicking guitars and singing in beautiful harmony. Come ready to sing!

Under the Radar with Scott Hoffman (grades 9-12)

In Under the Radar, we'll dive deep into the weird and wonderful world of music that doesn't always see the light of day. We'll draw from genres such as garage and glam rock, punk and new wave, indie and alternative. Although often missed by the mainstream, this music has profoundly influenced our popular culture over the past 60 years. Over the coming weeks, we'll listen, talk, and learn to play some of this material and prepare for an amazing performance at the end of the semester.

Art Offerings**Sewing with Sarah Guzzetti (grades 6-8)**

This course will explore basic hand sewing and patchworking techniques. Students will have time to work on their sewing skills, and also plenty of time to experiment with color, pattern, shape and texture combinations. This will be a time to create your own patterns, and hone your particular vision. Each student will complete a small project, such as a pillow, wall hanging, or small quilt.

Outdoor Adventure Stories with Adam Williams (all grades)

This class will explore the outdoors through true stories of adventure. Through documentaries, books, articles, and more we will dive into the incredible stories of those who pursue freedom and adventure in nature in all forms, from outdoor sports to survival to hunting to backcountry living and more. We will also venture outside to learn and practice outdoor skills, so that we can be better prepared for adventures of our own.

Short Films and Big Ideas with Kim Karlin (all grades)

Discover the art of storytelling in bite-sized form! Each week, we'll watch a short film — from award-winning animations to clever live-action stories — and explore how filmmakers use visuals, sound, and pacing to create impact in just minutes. We'll talk about themes, creative choices, and what makes a story memorable, and sometimes try our own quick creative challenges. No experience needed — just curiosity, an open mind, and a love of movies.