



Studio Block Offerings - Spring 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 January 13th. 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.

Rock and Roll with Sergei Isupov (grades 9-12)

From cups to sculptures, hand building with clay, ceramic paint and glaze.

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 effect on other genres of music. Intermediate instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up but all levels are welcome!

Destination Unknown with Nick Clark and Vanessa Brewster (grades 9-12)

Everyone knows about the first new wave and post-punk movement of the 80s, but what happened after that? The corporate machine bullied most alternative acts off of MTV's main rotation by 1987 leaving a void where walls of noise once stood. In this ensemble we'll explore the unique world of late 80s and early 90s alternative and indie music, where garage bands became almost famous. Because life is so strange

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 pattern.

Advanced Mixed Media with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 9-12)

In Advanced Mixed Media Art we will explore a variety of mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Emphasizing both material experimentation and technical skill-building, this class encourages creative exploration through hands-on demonstrations and guided practice. In the advanced course we will be diving further into the conceptual side of art. Despite the name, you don't need to be an advanced artist to take this class- it can be accommodated for any skill level. Come ready to get messy, try new things, and expand your artistic toolkit!

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!

Comics and Sequential Art with Rafael Kelman (all grades)

We will explore visual storytelling by making short and long form comics, taking inspiration from a wide range of comic books, graphic novels, newspaper cartoons and ancient sequential art.

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!

Horns and Strings with Aedan Madden (all grades)

Students who play a wind or string instrument are encouraged to sign up for this new studio block! This class will focus on creating and learning arrangements with the goal of accompanying other studio blocks such as Jukebox Rock & Soul, Women Who Rock, Reggae, and more. Students will also have the chance to develop fundamental skills on their instruments and practice playing together in a chamber ensemble setting.

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 Smooth FM with Jared Cruz and Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

Groove, Soul, Style, This group will be playing the deep cut hits of the 1970's. We'll be digging into artists such as Stevie Wonder, Donny Hathaway, Tower of Power, Marvin Gaye that fall under this hip umbrella. Rehearsal will be spent diving into these tunes to emulate the sound of this era, all levels of instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up!

Art Offerings

Mixed Media Jr. with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 6-8)

In Mixed Media Art we will explore a variety of mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Emphasizing both material experimentation and technical skill-building, this class encourages creative exploration through hands-on demonstrations and guided practice. Come ready to get messy, try new things, and expand your artistic toolkit!

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!

Runway Realness with Star Atkeson (all grades)

Runway Realness is a fun, hands-on studio block where students team up to create a ballroom- and circular-economy-inspired runway show and fundraiser using donated thrifted clothing. You'll decide on runway categories, upcycle clothing into original outfits through hemming and mending, choose music, share

fashion ideas, and learn how to walk the catwalk. Students will also learn core principles of cooperative development and help decide how the funds raised are reinvested in the studio block program.

Crocheting with Ainsley Murray (all grades)

In this hands-on class, we'll start by building a strong foundation in essential techniques, from holding a crochet hook with confidence to mastering a range of fundamental stitches. As the class progresses, we'll explore pattern reading, experiment with creating original designs, and take a brief journey through the rich history of fiber arts. Students will develop both technical skill and personal style while crafting functional, handmade pieces.

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

80's In the Garage with Scott Hoffman and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-9)

In 80's In the Garage, students will explore the big-hair DIY spirit of punk and new wave bands that made bold, catchy music with limited gear and lots of attitude.

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**Art with Fabric Jr. with Sarah Guzetti (grades 6-8)**

This course will use fabric as a medium for art making. Students can use hand sewing techniques, or even glue, to join pieces of fabric together and experiment with color, texture and shape. There will be fabric paint available as well. The goal of each student will be different—whether it is the creation of something purely aesthetic, or something that can be functional, such as a quilt, bag, or pillow.

Sewing with Star Atkeson (all grades)

Runway Realness is a fun, hands-on studio block where students team up to create a ballroom- and circular-economy-inspired runway show and fundraiser using donated thrifted clothing. You'll decide on runway categories, upcycle clothing into original outfits through hemming and mending, choose music, share fashion ideas, and learn how to walk the catwalk. Students will also learn core principles of cooperative development and help decide how the funds raised are reinvested in the studio block program

Other Offering**Chess with Luna Petravato (all grades)**

Chess club is the best club.

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

Music Offerings**Blues and Improvisation with Jared Cruz (all grades)**

This class dives into the roots of the blues and improvisation. We'll explore classic blues forms, scales, rhythms, and call-and-response while learning how to create your own musical ideas in the moment. Students will listen to and learn songs from influential blues artists and gain the tools to improvise with confidence, whether soloing or playing as a group. Rehearsals will be hands-on, collaborative, and centered on learning how to listen, respond, and jam together. All levels of instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome!

Women Who Rock Jr. with Vanessa Brewster and Nick Clark (6-9)

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.

Reggae with Max Wareham (all grades)

In this Reggae Ensemble, we will explore classic drum grooves, deep bass lines, rhythmic guitar and keys, sharp horn lines, and expressive vocals inspired by storytelling and connection. We'll learn by playing together, shaping songs as a band, and performing live. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all levels are encouraged to sign up—no reggae experience needed, just curiosity, energy, and a willingness to lock into the groove.

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

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 III 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. 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, digging and pouring footings, and preparing the building site 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, including those in winter months, will take place outdoors.

Middle School Play with Kim Karlin (grades 6-8)

Step into the spotlight! This brand-new Studio Block is designed just for our 6th–8th grade actors, creators, and behind-the-scenes wizards. Throughout the spring semester, students will collaborate to bring an original middle-school production to life—from the first spark of an idea to the final bow.

Because the show will be shaped by the students who enroll, the format, rehearsal schedule, and performance details will be crafted once our cast and crew assemble. Along the way, participants will sharpen their performance skills, build confident stage presence, and dive into the exciting worlds of acting, design, props, costumes, and technical theater.

Whether you love the spotlight or prefer to create the magic backstage, this fun, supportive, and highly creative program is your chance to help build a show that's entirely your own. Lights up!

Art with Fabric Sr. with Sarah Guzzetti (grades 9-12)

This course will use fabric as a medium for art making. Students can use hand sewing techniques, or even glue, to join pieces of fabric together and experiment with color, texture and shape. There will be fabric paint available as well. The goal of each student will be different—whether it is the creation of something purely aesthetic, or something that can be functional, such as a quilt, bag, or pillow.