



## Studio Block Offerings - Fall 2022

*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 Tuesday, September 6th. Studio blocks will begin the following week. This information below is designed to help students make appropriate choices.*

- *All students are encouraged to take studio blocks. Students are required to take studio blocks for a minimum of three periods each semester.*
- *All middle school students must take one music studio block and one art/other studio block.*

### Tuesday C (11:00-11:55 and Thursday B (10:00-10:55) Double Block

#### Music

##### **Musical Theater with Caden Adair (grades 6-12)**

Students of all ages will work to improve their acting, singing, and dancing while also being given the opportunity to learn about costuming, set design, lighting design, and filming. Students will be expected to participate to their fullest, working with each other to perform a full musical in December. Students participating who also choose to be on stage MUST have parental permission to be filmed, and consent to having the production uploaded for post-show viewing as a part of Caden's senior project. Not all students who participate have to be on stage, and can participate in countless other ways."

### Tuesday B & C, Double Block (10:00-11:55)

#### Art

##### **Beginning Wheel Throwing with Eric Smith (grades 8-12)**

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.

## Other

### **Dungeons & Dragons with Liam Birkets (6-12)**

Dungeons & Dragons is a tabletop roleplaying game that asks players to create personal and unique characters, and explore a collectively imagined world through those characters' eyes. Open to both brand new players and Dungeons & Dragons veterans, we will use the double studio block to play full sessions of D&D in one or two small groups. Our focus will center on the many creative challenges of D&D: writing compelling characters, and considering the ways they change as the story progresses; collectively inventing and expanding upon a fascinating new world; making pieces of art that tie into that world, like maps, portraits, and backstories.

## Tuesday, B Block (10:00-10:55)

### Art Offerings

#### **Project Upcycle: Textiles Reimagined with Heather Micka-Smith (grades 6-12)**

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.

#### **Analogue Photography with Doug Mason (grades 9-12)**

Analog Photography is an introduction to the magic of photography and the science behind it. It's a chance to learn the chemistry and physics of the camera, film, and printing. We will process our own film and see images that we imagined come to life in a developing tray. There will be an emphasis on photography as a fine art, and as a fine craft. We will explore the interaction of technique, perception, and communication in making and responding to photographic images.

#### **Creative Writing with Hannah Smith (grades 9-12)**

This studio block is a workshop in creative writing for students in 9th through 12th grade. In each class, students will free-write. They will be guided by unique writing prompts that engage their memory, imagination, or a combination. Students will be introduced to various poets, images, objects, and prose to help inspire their own writing. Students will also listen and give positive feedback about other students' writing. This course centers on the student's development of voice, growth in individual craft, and ability to unlock their creative thoughts.

#### **Glass Mosaics with Cynthia Fisher (grades 6-8)**

Mosaics have a long rich history. In this introductory class you will learn how the Ancient Romans elevated mosaics to an art form and how mosaics are "alive and well" today. You will create a variety of mosaic projects over the semester, starting with your own replica of a mosaic originally made 2000 years ago. You will have the opportunity to design your own contemporary mosaic, and time permitting, the class will work on a group project to install at The Academy.

### Music Offerings

#### **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 Blues According to Nick Clark (grades 6-8)**

The blues according to me. Exactly as advertised in the title. Get ready to take a trip through the sounds of soul, R&B, and blues music from the last 50 years. If the Blues Brothers were influenced by it, we'll play it! Grab a briefcase and a harmonica and be ready to be the funkier band in the land!

### **Music and Politics with Neale Gay (grades 9-12)**

Are you interested in the points where music meets politics? If you said yes then this is the course for you. We'll begin the semester by tracing the evolution of recorded music from the 20th-21st centuries as it relates to the politics of its age. We'll look at blues, folk, country, rock, reggae, punk, indie rock, and rap music. The semester will culminate in a project where students create annotated playlists which speak to their own political sense of self. This is a non-performance studio block and you don't need to know how to play an instrument. An open mind is necessary!

### **Other**

### **Let's Get Baking with Josie Tatreault (grades 6-8)**

We will explore the science and techniques of classic French pastry. We will work with dough, batter and meringue to create bagels, empanadas, strudel, croque-monsieur and more! Butter, flour, eggs are the medium for this merging of science and art...let's get baking!!

### **All Things Ultimate with Will Miller (grades 6-8)**

This studio block will primarily aim to develop fundamentals of the sport of Ultimate at either the middle school or high school age level. We will build strength and skills in disc handling, throwing, and catching, marking and cutting, field positioning and communication, and more. The class will provide an opportunity for students to learn and discuss several offense and defense strategies and formations, as well as the official rules and regulations of the sport. We will also take time to discuss the culture and spirit of Ultimate as it manifests at the Academy and to take part in games and drills in a low-stakes and inclusive environment.

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

### **Art Offerings**

### **Basket Weaving with Charlene Neeley (grades 6-12)**

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!

### **Slow Stitching to Make + Mend Our World with Heather Micka-Smith (grades 6-12)**

Through the medium of sewing and textiles, we'll explore our identities and ideas related to the world we live in, creating art that helps us find and use our voices for expression. Students will learn hand sewing, and yarn craft techniques, both functional decorative, as we create.

### **Analogue Photography with Doug Mason (grades 6-8)**

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### **Music Offerings**

#### **New Wave with Nick Clark (grades 9-12)**

Before video killed the radio star, did you know that Flock of Seagulls had a second song? Before 80s music got overproduced, based around a video concept, and hair and glam metal took over, there were the weird, futuristic, forward-thinking, and industry-altering sounds of Devo, INXS, and Thomas Dolby. Put on your Energy Domes and get ready to relaunch the pre-MTV era!

#### **British Invasion with Andy Cass (grades 6-8)**

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?

#### **Beat Making with Mike Hansen (grades 9-12)**

The sample based tradition has heavy implications for the musical canon. Moments of previously obscure work have the potential to move culture and create avenues of expression that defy the relationship humans have historically had with physical instruments. Ironically, the creation of jazz, to the sampling of jazz, to the playing of "jazz that sounds like hip hop", have reinforced that the noises have always been important. Make beats here. Study music from people who lived when your great grandparents did. This class will enable you to look for samples, learn the process of implementing sampled work into your songs/podcast/sound art piece, and give you the tools to separate the idea of sampling from genre association and leave you free to make your art, not someone else's.

### **Other**

#### **Let's Get Baking with Josie Tetreault (9-12)**

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## **Thursday B & C, Double Block (10:00-11:55)**

### **Art Offerings**

#### **Advanced Clay with Eric Smith (8-12)**

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 (10:00-10:55)**

### **Art Offerings**

#### **Digital Photography with Matthew Cavanaugh (grades 6-8)**

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.

#### **Breathing Life into Form with Frances Kidder (6-12)**

Using a variety of different materials and methods, - clay, charcoal, pencil, paint, paper and collage - students will explore different approaches to representing the human figure. Sources will include live models, as well as photographic sources from art history and popular culture.

### **Drawing from Nature with Explorations Into Paint, Clay, Printmaking, and Plaster with Cyndy Sperry (6-12)**

In this class students will use observational drawing from nature as a launchpad into new worlds. We will chase after abstract visual elements—line, light, shape, color and movement as we seek intersections between observation and imagination. We will explore and translate two dimensional discoveries into new media. Be prepared to work large, get messy, collaborate and push out in all directions, past all arbitrary edges. We will look at old master and contemporary artists for inspiration on this journey.

### **Music Offerings**

#### **Bluegrass Ensemble with Max Wareham (6-12)**

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, 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. Any students who play guitar, mandolin, fiddle/violin, banjo, or bass are welcome to sign up!

#### **The Great North with Andy Cass (9-12)**

In this ensemble, we’ll spend some time touring the land of moose, Hockey and Tim Horton’s as we play songs from some of Canada’s greatest songwriters. From Neil Young to Joni Mitchell and everything in between, Canada has exported some of the best music to grace the American Airwaves, and this class is there to, in some small way, say thanks for sharing such wonderful songs.

#### **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 (6-12)**

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.

#### **An Early Introduction to Computer Science with Stephen Scarano (6-12)**

Description: Students will develop an understanding of programming and algorithms. What does it mean to write rigorous directions for an autonomous agent (your laptop), and how can humans learn to do so efficiently and effectively? In other words, how do we translate our fuzzy, human intuitions into mathematics, and what might be lost along the way? Here we’ll explore common coding pitfalls and practices through demonstrations, projects, and thought experiments that serve as strong foundations for coding and logic alike. Coding work will be done in Python 3, and the class will be taught online through Zoom.

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for students to learn and discuss several offense and defense strategies and formations, as well as the official rules and regulations of the sport. We will also take time to discuss the culture and spirit of Ultimate as it manifests at the Academy and to take part in games and drills in a low-stakes and inclusive environment.

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#### **Silk Painting with Susan Draxler (grades 6-12)**

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

#### **Songwriting Workshop with Max Wareham (9-12)**

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 Songwriting Workshop 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 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

**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!

**Women Who Rock Jr. with Karl Helander (grades 6-8)**

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****Advanced Chess with Michael Campbell (for experienced players):**

This semester we will focus our study on "end games". We will look at both how to win in advantageous positions, and how to defend when at a disadvantage. We will begin with King and Pawn endings, and then expand to look at endings with pawns and pieces. We will also, of course, spend most of our time playing chess.

If there is enough interest we will restart the chess team and see if we can continue last spring's undefeated season.

If you haven't taken an introductory class yet, but still want to join this one, please contact me at [mcampbell@chatlemont.org](mailto:mcampbell@chatlemont.org).