



Studio Block Offerings - Fall 2024

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 10th. This 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 (grades 6-12)

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.

Analogue Photography with Doug Mason (grades 8-12)

In Analogue Photography this semester we cover a lot of ground, starting with the camera, film, light and exposure and then developing and printing our own images in the darkroom. We will experience the magic of seeing our images come to life in the darkroom and hone our ability to see the world through photography. We will go out and photograph together a few times, but most of our time will be focused on working in the darkroom, so there will be about an hour of work outside of class each week.

Figurative Clay Sculptures with Painting and Decorating with Sergei Isupov (grades 9-12)

Figurative form is an important learning process on how to create an image and personality. We will start with creating a construction out of clay slabs from high-fired clay, learning different ways to construct the sculpture including decoration and surface treatment. After a bisque fire we will learn how to decorate the form with underglazes. We will paint eyes, adding tattoos and other decoration to the sculpture. At the end we will glaze and fire the works. We will finish the semester with an exhibition of works created during this time, with a discussion of the works and a conversation about how best to present the created works.

Other

Dungeons & Dragons with Nathan Liberatore (grades 6-12)

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

Tuesday, B Block

(10:00-10:50)

Music Offerings

Indie Pop 2k with Nick Clark and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-8)

Music these days has gotten formulaic, boring and repetitive. It's time we dig deeper and find cool, unique, and weird songs that not many people know exist and spotlight the current indie scene and show the world that cool music is still out there, you just have to know where to find it!

Songwriting and Recording with Christina Schneider (grades 6-12)

Songwriting used to be just a piece of paper and an instrument, but today's technologies allow us to add more tools to the creative impulse. In this class, you will learn fundamental techniques to improve your songwriting, fluency on commonly available technologies, and basic audio recording skills to enhance your writing and production in real time. If you have never written a song, this class is for you. If you do not sing or play an instrument, this class is for you. If you are looking for more advanced help with your skills, this class is for you. Students will work individually and in groups, share work with the class, and you will be expected to do some creative work on your own time.

Roots and Soul with Scott Hoffman and Sarah Puckett (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 was groundbreaking, forward-looking music that challenged norms and gave a voice to people that often struggled to be heard. It changed the course of history. 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

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!

Telling Stories with Cartoons with David Kearns (grades 6-12)

Cartoons, Zines, Graphic Novels, Sequential Imagery, Narrative Illustration, and everything in-between. Cave Painting to Hieroglyphics to Emojis. Take this class if you like to draw in different styles and create work of your own!

Stop Fast Fashion! Visible Mending 101 with Hannah Brookman (grades 6-12)

Stop fast fashion- mend the clothes you love! Celebrate and adorn your holes and tears in this handiwork class on visible mending. Over the semester, we will learn and practice several addicting techniques in patching, darning, embroidery and appliqué. Bring your worn down socks and your holy sweater and fall in love with the simple yet radical act of repair.

Tuesday, C Block

(11:00-11:50)

Music Offerings

Academy Chorus with Sarah Puckett and Scott Hoffman (grades 6-12)

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 Christina Schneider (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. The first day of class, we will listen to 10 songs and vote on a favorite to begin learning!

Britain in 12 Bars (Blues that is) with Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

In the 1960s, the British Invasion kicked off with many of the world's best pop and rock and roll bands crossing over into America. At the same time, a large boom of British Blues bands and artists such as Eric Clapton of the Yardbirds and Cream, The Jimi Hendrix Experience, Jeff Beck, Peter Green's Fleetwood Mac and many others rose from the underground into the mainstream and became staples of the next 50 years.

Art Offerings

COLOR Acrylic Painting with David Kearns (grades 6-12)

It's FUN to Paint!. This class will include mixing your own paint, different approaches to working with color, and the use of mediums to expand the range of how acrylics can be used. The class will be a fun exploration of COLOR! Roll up your sleeves and get ready to make art.

No Patterns! Cut/Collage Clothing with Hannah Brookman (grades 6-12)

Learn to freestyle design and make your own clothes on the sewing machine. In this class, we will learn the basics of using a sewing machine to upcycle old clothes into new and wild originals.

Mixed Media with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 9-12)

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Queer Poetry Appreciation with Lauren Schmidt (grades 9-12)

Open to all 9th-12th graders, this course is designed to provide students a basic understanding of the art of poetry and to inspire an appreciation for poetry through the work of queer-identifying writers. Students will learn about the language of poetry—the structures and strategies poets use to craft their poems—which students will use in our class discussions as well as informal journaling about the poems shared in class. Finally, students will be asked to share with the class at least one current event about LGBTQ-related concerns so that we can, while appreciating great works by great writers, gain some understanding of the larger political climate that continues to shape them.

Other

Aardvarks in the Wild with Adam Williams (grades 6-12)

Aardvarks in the Wild is a class designed to introduce students to outdoor adventures and skills. Class time will be spent outdoors as much as possible and students will be introduced to primitive and survival skills such as fire making, edible plants, knot tying, and animal tracking. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to view several outdoor adventure films and to try out different outdoor activities.

Thursday B & C, Double Block

(10:00-11:50)

Advanced Ceramics with Eric Smith (grades 7-12)

Prerequisite: 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)

Music Offerings

Under the Radar Jr. with Scott Hoffman (grades 6-8)

In this class, we will talk, listen, and learn how to play in a band together. We'll draw from genres such as garage and glam rock, punk and new wave, indie and alternative. It will be challenging and fun.

Swift with Max Wareham and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-12)

Through the Eras! Get your Swift on from early Taylor to the latest heart-wrenching melodies, all performed with a band. Be a part of the song's "sick beat," rock along on strings or keys, or literally sing your heart out.

Jazz Fusion with Jared Cruz (grades 6-12)

In this ensemble students will learn, listen, and play the high energy music of jazz fusion from the 1960's-1970's. Repertoire will include music that ranges drastically from bands such as Steely Dan, Weather Report, and Return to Forever and encapsulates the exciting sound of fusion music. Students will have opportunities to enhance their improvisational skills as well as harmonic and rhythmic knowledge by playing this complex music. Players that are intermediate to advanced are encouraged to enroll!

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 and leather pants 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 likes of Foo Fighters, Def Leppard, Pat Benatar, Paramore, and Bon Jovi, we have it all faster than you can put up the devil horns!

Art Offerings

Exploring Islamic Geometric Design with Kim Karlin (grades 6-12)

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.

Digital Photography 2 with Doug Mason (grades 6-12)

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. This class will require an hour of work per week outside of class time.

Drawing and Painting from Observation with Katherine Weinstein (grades 6-12)

Delve into observational drawing and painting. We'll work primarily from still life and the figure, with options to incorporate reference photos or images from your imagination. I will present many techniques to bring your images to fruition. Starting with tonal drawings and moving to color relationships. We will progress to issues of composition (like repetition, balance, scale, etc.) which will offer opportunities to experiment with collage and pattern. As in all my classes, I will adapt lessons to support individual students' style and skill level, and present examples of artists' work (historical and contemporary) suited to each students' art. This class is great for all skill levels and can be customized for students who have taken my class previously.

Flex Your Fiction Muscles - A Creative Writing Workshop with Lauren Schmidt (grades 9-12)

Open to all 9th-12th graders, this course will teach students the basics of long- and short-form fiction writing. Each week, students will learn about a different aspect of craft (i.e. setting, character, dialogue, narrative tension, etc.) and be given exercises to stretch and flex their own fiction muscles. Students are expected to complete the practice exercises and, ideally, draft a single short story that reflects the skills and techniques learned throughout the semester. (PLEASE NOTE: The emphasis of this course is writing and skill-building and play. There is no student cap, so students should not sign up expecting a feedback-style workshop. Students who are interested in getting feedback on their fiction should wait for the spring, when I will offer a studio block centered around feedback and revision with a limited number of students.)

Other

Res Latinae with Donald Young (prerequisite: Latin I)

Got to get a little Latin in your life? This studio block will meet your nerdy needs. This semester we'll choose a selection of topics spanning history and genre, and each block we'll practice reading, writing, and talking about one "mini-topic" out of these. For any student with at least one year's experience in Latin.

Cooking with Cassandra Haffner (grades 6-8)

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

Music Offerings

Bluegrass with Max Wareham (grades 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. Students who play guitar, mandolin, fiddle/violin, banjo, or bass are welcome to sign up!

Charlemont Guitar Ensemble with Jared Cruz (grades 6-12)

In this ensemble students will experience playing guitar in an ensemble of other guitarists, a setting guitar players are not always put in. Students will gain experience playing lead and supporting roles in arrangements. This will strengthen reading skills, harmonic knowledge, and improvisational skills through playing familiar music arranged for many guitars. All levels of players are encouraged to enroll in this course!

Academy Unplugged with Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

In the 1990s, MTV launched 'MTV Unplugged,' which was designed to take the most popular acts of the day and strip their sound down to an intimate setting of semi-acousticness. This led to such popular performances by Eric Clapton, Nirvana, The Cure, 10,000 Maniacs and Alice in Chains. In this ensemble, we'll explore all songs acoustic new and old and perform the best of the best the style has to offer.

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

Creative Writing Jr. with Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-8)

This course will focus on expressive writing in many different forms. Students will have the opportunity to explore several different types of poetry and prose styles, as well as responding to literature, art mediums, quotes, and music. Originality and writing that shows thought will be emphasized.

Digital Photography 1 with Doug Mason (grades 6-12)

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. This class will require at least an hour of work per week outside of class time. Join us on this creative journey in digital photography!

Heads and Hands with Katherine Weinstein (grades 6-12)

People can be hard to draw, but as a figure painter, I don't think there is any image more compelling. This class is for anyone who would like to learn how to draw people in a three-dimensional and realistic manner. Quick lessons on the shape of the human head, its facial features and proportions will support a variety of portrait style drawings. We'll also examine the structure of our own hands, learning how to depict its form and gestures with dynamic, expressive lines. Anatomical references and master drawings will be presented as supports. Lessons will culminate with more developed drawings allowing for more creativity and experimentation with materials and techniques. As in all my classes, I will adapt lessons to support individual students' style. This class is great for all skill levels and can be customized for students who have taken my class previously.

Other

Chess with Ivan Harder (grades 6-12)

Chess is the best!

Cooking with Cassandra Haffner (grades 9-12)

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.