



Studio Block Offerings - Fall 2026

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 8th. 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.

Analogue Photography with Doug Mason (all grades)

This course is an experiment in image and process as fine art with an emphasis on the interaction of processes, technique, perception and communication in making and responding to photographs. We will learn everything from loading film in cameras to developing and printing images in the darkroom. We will unplug from the digital world and learn the slow and rewarding craft of creating images on silver. The class will involve at least 2 hours of work per week outside of class.

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

Music Offerings

Women Who Rock: Country Queens with Vanessa Brewster and Max Wareham (grades 9-12)

This class takes a deep dive into the women who laid the foundation for country music's greatest traditions of crooning, heartbreak, twang, and storytelling. We'll play songs by the women who made a broken heart sound beautiful and turned hard-lived lives into unforgettable songs. Leave the pop-country radio stars at the door and come celebrate the royalty who came before them.

Intro to Jazz with Jared Cruz (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. All are encouraged to sign up!

Rock and Prog with Nick Clark (grades 9-12)

This class will be not only an exploration of album oriented rock but also prog rock that gained popularity over the course of the later third of the 20th century, and will focus on playing some harder more complicated tunes.

Art Offerings**Exploring Islamic Geometric Design with Kim Karlin (all grades)**

Back by popular demand—and now with an exciting new twist! Exploring Islamic Geometric Design & Mandalas returns with everything students have loved about the course, plus the addition of beautiful mandala designs. This class invites middle and high school students to discover how art, history, mathematics, and culture come together through geometry. Students will explore both the rich tradition of Islamic geometric patterns and the captivating world of mandalas—circular, symmetrical designs found in many cultures and express balance and harmony. Using simple tools such as a compass, straightedge, and pencil, students will learn the principles of symmetry, repetition, and proportion while creating everything from stars and rosettes to tessellations and intricate mandalas. Along the way, they'll uncover the mathematical ideas behind these timeless designs and finish the course with a collection of original geometric artwork.

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.

Creative Writing Junior with Lauren Schmidt (grades 7-9)

This introductory creative writing course invites 7th-9th-grade students to explore their literary voices through storytelling, poetry, and dramatic writing. Designed for both beginner and experienced writers, students will experiment with foundational craft elements—such as vivid imagery, character development, world-building, dialogue, and narrative pacing—while discovering new ways to articulate their unique perspectives. Please note: This is a generative workshop where the focus will be on generating new work, as opposed to feedback-style workshop that would focus more on feedback and revision.

Sculptural Portraits with Sergei Isupov (grades 9-12)

Hand built faces from clay slabs, decorated with ceramic underglaze and glaze, accompanied with lessons on how to sculpt eyes, ears, lips, and noses. Fired to reveal the finished project.

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

Music Offerings**Songwriting and Improvisations with Jared Cruz (6-9)**

In this studio block, we'll explore the building blocks of songwriting—melody, harmony, rhythm, chord progressions, song form, riffs, hooks, and lyrics—and use them to create our own music. Students will gain experience collaborating as a band, developing ideas into original tunes, and experimenting with different musical approaches. Improvisation will be a large part of the process as we explore, create, and respond to music in the moment. All levels of musicians and vocalists are encouraged to sign up.

Yacht Rock with Max Wareham and Nick Clark (9-12)

This class takes a deep dive into the smooth grooves, silky harmonies, and impossibly clean production that defined the golden age of soft rock. We'll play the songs built for cruising the coast with the top down: mellow basslines, soaring falsettos, and hooks so smooth they practically glide. Come set sail with the captains who made "smooth" an art form.

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

This class invites you to explore a range of artistic mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. With an emphasis on both material experimentation and technical skill-building, you'll develop your craft through hands-on demonstrations and guided practice, while also having the freedom to push your ideas in new directions. Whether you're refining existing skills or discovering new ones, this class is a chance to expand your artistic toolkit and figure out how different materials can bring your creative ideas to life.

Riso Press: making Zines and Artbooks with the Risograph with Vanessa Brewster (all grades)

Explore the history, impact, and creative possibilities of zines and art books while learning the basics of Risograph printing. Experiment with color, layering, composition, writing, and DIY publishing. Each student will design and print their own Risograph mini zine, then collaborate with the class to create a collective artbook. This is a hands-on class focused on making, experimenting, sharing ideas, and finding your own creative voice. Books and zines will be printed on the Risograph printer at Looky Here in Greenfield.

Drawing Composition and Fabric with Sarah Guzzetti (all grades)

We will begin with drawing, experimenting with both still life and drawing from imagination. From there we will recreate the original drawing using pieces of fabric, giving the original design new life and color.

Sculptural Portraits with Sergei Isupov (grades 9-12)

Hand built faces from clay slabs, decorated with ceramic underglaze and glaze, accompanied with lessons on how to sculpt eyes, ears, lips, and noses. Fired to reveal the finished project.

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)

Welcome to the adventure. Come explore the dungeons and face mighty foes, help make tales that will be told for years to come. GM Nate, "mustache" you to join him in the world of DnD or other roleplaying games. This is an all grade/skill level class.

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

Music Offerings**Bluegrass with Max Wareham (all grades)**

This class dives into the "high and lonesome" sound of old mountain ballads and the twang of banjo, fiddle, and mandolin strumming together. We'll build a shared repertoire of bluegrass standards and dig into the music's roots in the mountains and the cities that later embraced it. Bluegrass is a deeply social music, and we'll learn the jam etiquette that makes it possible to sit in with confidence, anywhere the circle forms.

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 within this genre. We will be covering a wide range of music, from classic jazz standard repertoire to more modern tunes. Intermediate - Advanced instrumentalists and vocalists are encouraged to sign up!

In the Garage with Scott Hoffman and Nick Clark (grades 6-9)

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.

Art Offerings**Illuminated Manuscripts and Medieval Art with Kim Karlin (all grades)**

Journey into the art of the medieval world through Illuminated Manuscripts & Celtic Design. This course invites middle school students to discover how monks, scribes, and artists transformed books into breathtaking works of art centuries before the printing press. Students will explore the rich history and symbolism of illuminated manuscripts and the intricate beauty of Celtic knotwork, spirals, and interlacing designs. Using simple drawing techniques, students will learn how these timeless patterns are constructed while developing skills in precision, composition, and decorative lettering. Throughout the course, they'll create ornate borders, illuminated initials, Celtic knots, and original manuscript-inspired pages, building a portfolio of artwork inspired by some of history's most beautiful artistic traditions.

Mixed Media Sr. with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 9-12)

This class invites you to explore a range of artistic mediums, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. With an emphasis on both material experimentation and technical skill-building, you'll develop your craft through hands-on demonstrations and guided practice, while also having the freedom to push your ideas in new directions. Whether you're refining existing skills or discovering new ones, this class is a chance to expand your artistic toolkit and figure out how different materials can bring your creative ideas to life.

Cooking with Cassandra Ellis (all grades)

We will explore and practice knife skills; talk about different family and cultural cuisines; perform hands on cooking each session; help provide fare for our community events; and many other topics. Students will have the opportunity to suggest projects of interest to them. Students will also be learning and be required to perform kitchen cleaning and maintenance.

Thursday, C Block

(11:00-11:50)

Music Offerings

Under the Radar with Max Wareham (9-12)

This class celebrates two singular artists who built their own worlds on their own terms. The Roches and Elliott Smith were geniuses operating outside the mainstream, crafting intricate songs with meticulous arrangements. We'll perform their work, diving into the beauty and complexity of homemade sensibility and fierce independence.

Funk and R&B with Jared Cruz (grades 9-12)

In this studio block students will study and learn tunes that make these genres. This studio block will really focus on doing justice to the rhythmic feel and articulations that we hear but don't necessarily always focus on in funk and r&b. We will be covering a wide range of tunes spanning from the 70's to now. All levels of musicians are encouraged to sign up!

Classic Rock with Nick Clark (grades 6-9)

In this class, students will learn to play all their favorite songs from the 70s and 80s that you can hear multiple times a day on various local classic rock radio stations. Every stadium anthem, crowd-pleaser, sing-along rock song... no deep cuts or sappy love ballads here; this band is all killer, no filler!

Art Offerings

Freeform Patchwork Sewing with Sarah Guzzetti (all grades)

In this class we will use pieces of fabric to create patchwork quilts, tapestries, pillows, patches or anything else that we want to try. The focus will be on hand sewing, although a sewing machine will be available. It will be a chance to explore color and pattern combinations, have fun, and unleash your imagination. Do not worry if your sewing skills are not strong. I will provide guidance.

Painting Across Mediums with Annaleah Gregoire (all grades)

Ready to dive deep into painting? In Painting Across Mediums we'll often start with pencil sketches before experimenting with watercolor, acrylic paint, or ink. Along the way, we will tackle a wide range of projects — some literal, capturing the world as you see it, and others more conceptual, using color and form to express an idea or emotion. We'll move between more technical, structured exercises that sharpen your skills and loose, free-form pieces that invite you to take creative risks.

Cooking with Cassandra (all grades)

We will explore and practice knife skills; talk about different family and cultural cuisines; perform hands on cooking each session; help provide fare for our community events; and many other topics. Students will have the opportunity to suggest projects of interest to them. Students will also be learning and be required to perform kitchen cleaning and maintenance.

School Newspaper with Katje Gibb-Buursma (grades 8-12)

Have you always wanted to write for your school newspaper? Draw comics? Interview community members? Become a part of my senior project, and join my writing crew! The paper will feature articles on Academy sports, music reviews, movie reviews, community events, interviews, astrology, and opinion pieces. Bring flexibility and enthusiasm for journalism, art, and writing. We will start the semester finding what kind of stories team members are interested in covering and spend classes writing, editing, etc.