



Studio Block Offerings - Spring 2023

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 Wednesday, December 14th. Studio blocks will begin on January 3rd. 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 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.

Fundamentals of Making Clothes with Heather Wynne (grades 6-12)

Students will learn the basics of clothing making as we make tops, bottoms, or both! Beginning with a simple design, and expanding from there, we'll learn how to read and understand sewing patterns, pinning and cutting and the operation of a sewing machine. We'll learn how to stitch garments together, and how seam and edge finishing techniques make our wearables look pro! Designed for beginners, students of all sewing skill levels are welcome.

Analogue Photography with Doug Mason (grades 8-12)

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.

Other

Dungeons & Dragons with Liam Birkets (grades 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

(10:00-10:50)

Music Offerings

Back to the 90s with Nick Clark (9-12)

Ah, the 90s. I wasn't born yet and neither were you, but our parents were there! Perhaps the last time this country was truly happy on all fronts, and the music scene was as diverse as it had been in the 70s . . . that is if you looked beyond what was in the top 10 on the top 40 charts every week, so if you were expecting this to be about Mariah Carey and the Backstreet Boys, could you be any more wrong? Get ready to rock out to the likes of Lenny Kravitz, Alanis Morissette, Foo Fighters, Britpop, Grunge, Alternative and more!

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!

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.

Art Offerings

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Creative Writing with Hannah Smith (grades 6-8)

This studio block is a workshop in creative writing for students in 6th through 8th 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.

Heads, Hands, and Feet with Katherine Weinstein (6-12)

Faces, hands, (and yes) even feet are wonderfully expressive parts of the human figure yet can be challenging to draw. We will learn how to simplify the forms and use expressive lines to draw with accuracy and expression.

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, croquembouche and more! Butter, flour, eggs are the medium for this merging of science and art...let's get baking!!

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

Music Offerings

Beyond the Beatles with Nick Clark (9-12)

In March of 1970 when the Beatles broke up, John, Paul, George, and Ringo all embarked on some of the most successful music careers in the history of the business. 'Plastic Ono Band,' 'McCartney I,' and 'All Things Must Pass,' would all be released in the same year, while 'Ringo!' would come out in 1973. We'll explore all those albums and more including their various solo projects such as Wings and the Traveling Wilburys in this studio block.

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.

Songwriting Workshop with Max Wareham (6-12)

Prerequisite Required: Students must be able to play an instrument. 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.

Art Offerings

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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!

Art Journaling with Erin MacLachlan (grades 6-8)

An art journal is a visual diary. It's a place to record thoughts, memories, emotions, and observations through images and words. Art journaling is similar to keeping a written journal, except that it incorporates colors, images, patterns, and various materials, and it can be a form of creative self-care. In this class we will create a practice of creativity through collaging, painting, drawing, writing, borrowing, stealing, noticing, and finding out what inspires us.

Art Appreciation and Appropriation with Katherine Weinstein (grades 9-12)

We will deconstruct paintings from the Renaissance or Mannerist Period using our visual tools for analysis; diagrams, grisaille, and color study uncovering how the artist used composition and color. Then you will create your own painted version (as creatively or faithfully as you choose) incorporating your own images. You will learn how to construct your paintings and gain an appreciation for these historic masterpieces.

Other

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

3D Design and 3D Printing Basics with Will Miller (grades 6-12)

Students in this studio block will learn basic computer skills needed to design and print 3D objects. Using a free CAD program called Fusion 360 and the school's 3D printers, students will have an opportunity to design and print their own objects and/or modify and print existing designs from the web. Included in the class will be fun design challenges that ask students to use creativity and ingenuity to solve fun, novel engineering problems. Have you ever been curious about 3D printing or product design? This is the class for you! No prior experience is necessary.

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

Advanced Clay with Eric Smith (7-12)

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 (10:00-10:50)

Music Offerings

Canada is Awesome! 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, from The Band to Leonard Cohen 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 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.

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.

Improv! with Jonathan Mirin (grades 9-12)

Are you interested in having fun . . . maybe a lot of fun? Would you like to gain more confidence with social interactions and public speaking? Improv is not just for "funny" people. Anyone can make things up – we make them up all the time. We will progress from simple games towards scene work in a super-supportive atmosphere. Students will have input about the direction of the group as we learn to "say yes." We will have a celebratory sharing of our improv skills with the school and maybe even the wider world at the end. No experience required and improvising in public is optional.

Two D Explorations with Cyndy Sperry (grades 6-12)

In this studio block students will take a 2D journey that begins with drawing from life and then flows (via woodblock, cyanotype, screen printing and collage) into imaginary worlds not yet travelled. Students will work large and small, using color, line, and repetition, from the whole to the part and back to the whole again. We will use chance as a vehicle for taking risk and making discoveries. Detours may arise that take us to new

forms. American painter, Jasper Johns' famous quote: "take something, do something to it, then do something else to it, and pretty soon you will have something" will be our road map

Other

Beginning Chess with Jonathan Schmidt (for inexperienced players or players who want to learn the game - grades 6-12): For this semester, we will study fundamental opening theory, tactics, and basic checkmates. Puzzles will be employed to demonstrate positional and tactical concepts, but the best method of learning chess- playing chess- will occupy the majority of class time.

Computer Programming and Graphics with Stephen Scarano (grades 6-12)

This course meets virtually. Computer Science is fundamentally a problem-oriented discipline with the ongoing goal of reducing the complexity of seemingly complicated problems. Game creation is one of these -- simulating and dynamically responding to unpredictable player behavior is hard. What is to be done!?! In this studio block, we'll consider challenges through the creation of one or many game projects of varying sophistication, but you'll find that these problems generalize across disciplines to mathematics, science, and virtually all problem-solving. Work will be done in Python, and potentially Java.

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

Music Offerings

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!

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Resist! with Sue Draxler (grades 6-12)

A resist is a substance that is applied to a surface to prevent paint or dyes from adhering to that surface. In this class we will work with resists using two very different mediums. To start, we will use a water-based resist and textile paints to make silk paintings. The second half of the semester, we will use melted beeswax as a resist along with aniline dyes to produce the Ukrainian style of egg decoration known as pysanky.

Other

Intermediate Chess with Jonathan Schmidt (this class is for experienced players, grades 6-12)

We will continue our study of endgames- with a focus on both drawing from worse positions as well as converting better positions. Additionally, we will develop our ability for positional calculation in the middle game, potentially with 'deep dives' into the middlegame positional concepts of certain openings if there is interest from the class. As always, most of the time will be spent playing chess.

Academy Ambassadors with Katherine Anderson (grades 6-12)

Interested in developing and honing skills in writing, design, iPhone photography and videography, social media content creation, and more? Excited about supporting The Academy's communications, marketing, admissions, alumni relations, and fundraising efforts? Become an Academy Ambassador this spring! Projects may include, but are not limited to, creating content (posts, stories, and reels) for The Academy's social media accounts, writing articles and announcements about Academy life to be featured on The Academy's website, sharing alumni and current student stories with our community through the aforementioned platforms, supporting the publication of our annual alumni magazine *Vox*, and assisting The Academy's admissions and fundraising efforts when applicable. Academy Ambassadors will pursue self-directed projects individually and in small groups throughout the semester and will gain skills and insights around the behind-the-scenes aspects of sustaining an independent school (or any non-profit organization!).