



## 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 14th. 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.

##### **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, and unique songs that not many people know exist and spotlight the indie/alternative scene from the last 25 years and today to show the world that cool music is still out there, you just have to know where to find it!

### **A Capella and Voice with Sarah Puckett (6-12)**

If you're interested in building your vocal skills and making soulful blends with others who also love to sing, sign up for A cappella! This class will explore the inspiring, intimate sounds of unaccompanied vocal ensembles (no instruments, just voices). Immersing ourselves in the interplay of improvisation and precision, we will learn the physical, mental, and energetic tools that are the foundation of good singing, which not only make us sound good but also make singing fun.

### **Songwriting and Recording with Kevin Barnes (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.

### **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 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

### **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.

### **Basics of Metal Fabrication with Cyndee Fand (grades 6-12)**

Students will explore fine hand-made jewelry and small metal sculpture, including shaping, cutting, piercing, punching, forming, riveting and other cold connections, finishing, and simple stone setting techniques with basic metals such as copper, brass and nickel-silver. We will spend some time discussing design and do some preliminary sketching to familiarize students with the process of design and metal fabrication.

### **Timber Frame Design Project with Will Miller (grades 6-12)**

Students in this studio block will undertake the design and construction of a small timber frame shelter on campus. Students will first research timber frame design principles using books and online sources. Using a 3D design program called Sketchup, students will then create computer models, translate them to testable, tangible models using 3D printing, and develop a cut sheet for building the final shelter. The group will begin working with the actual timber frame components in the spring, with a goal of finishing the shelter frame by the end of the semester. No prior experience with woodworking is required. A significant portion of this studio block's springtime classes will take place outdoors.

# Tuesday, C Block

## (11:00-11:50)

### Music Offerings

#### **Academy Chorus with Sarah Puckett (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 Kevin Barnes (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!

#### **The Dark Art of Rock with Nick Clark (9-12)**

(Picture this in your head as if Jack Black were reading it-) In 1969 the world was shaken by more than just the political unrest in the United States due to the Vietnam War. The world of music was shaken by the arrival of this strange new dark heavy sound sent by Satan himself to record stores across the world with the debut album from Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath a year later. In this studio block we will explore the loudest, heaviest riffiest songs and lyrics these two bands have to offer as we learn about the origin of heavy metal and how it was born from the blues rock of the British invasion.

### Art Offerings

#### **Monster Makers with Kimberly Karlin (6-12)**

Let's build some monsters! In this hands-on class, you'll work as part of the creative team for this year's school play, *She Kills Monsters*. You'll collaborate with the director and cast to design and build imaginative costumes that bring the characters and story to life. From sketching concepts to sewing and assembling outfits, you'll gain practical experience and have fun creating. No prior sewing experience is required—we'll teach you everything you need to know.

Once the play concludes, the focus will shift to sewing and clothing design. You'll learn core sewing techniques, explore different fabric types, and design your own custom pieces. Whether it's creating your dream outfit, upcycling old clothes, or experimenting with costume elements, this course offers creative opportunities for all skill levels.

#### **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.

**Making a Scene with Lauren Schmidt (6-8):** In this studio block, students will be given regular prompts to learn how to craft the most essential building block of story: the scene. Appropriate for students who want to write fiction (short stories/novels) or plays, we will learn about the most important elements of a scene and how to develop them through a combination of playful experimentation and thoughtful revision.

#### **Artistic Fly Tying with Adam Williams (grades 6-12)**

In this course, students will learn the art of artistic fly tying. We'll not only try some of our works out on the river by fly fishing in warmer months, but we'll also make some pretty incredible works of art that can be displayed at home.

## 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.

**Cooking with Cassandra Haffner (grades 6-12):** 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.

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

### **Music Offerings**

#### **In the Garage with Scott Hoffman and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-8)**

Have you ever wanted to rock and roll all night and party every day? If so, this class is for you! 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.

#### **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

#### **Kind of Blue Ensemble with Jared Cruz (grades 6-12)**

In this ensemble, students will participate in playing the traditional jazz sounds of Miles Davis' music. We will do a deep dive into his composing, how to tackle improvising and comping on jazz standards he's written and recorded. We'll work on playing in a traditional jazz combo and students will have the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of jazz repertoire and hone in on active listening. Plays that are intermediate to advanced are encouraged to enroll, but all are welcome!

#### **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**

#### **Making a Scene with Lauren Schmidt (grades 9-12)**

In this studio block, students will be given regular prompts to learn how to craft the most essential building block of story: the scene. Appropriate for students who want to write fiction (short stories/novels) or plays, we will learn about the most important elements of a scene and how to develop them through a combination of playful experimentation and thoughtful revision.

#### **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.

#### **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!

#### **Art Journaling with Erin MacLachlan (grades 6-12)**

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.

### **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.

#### **Model UN with Kara Fagan and Neale Gay (grades 8-12)**

This class is open to all students, grades 8-12, interested in participating in Dartmouth's Model United Nations conference, which will take place on April 4th-6th. This class is highly recommended for any novice participants.

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

### **Music Offerings**

#### **Women Who Rock Jr. with Max Wareham and Vanessa Brewster (grades 6-8)**

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!

#### **Academy Unplugged with Nick Clark (grades 7-12)**

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 as well as taking popular songs and putting them into the style of MTV Unplugged in our own twisted way.

### **Contemporary Funk Ensemble with Jared Cruz (grades 9-12)**

In this ensemble students will listen and play a wide array of music from the 1970's - 1990's. We will focus on the music of artists such as Donny Hathaway, Sly and the Family Stone, Curtis Mayfield, Stevie Wonder etc. Students will hone in on playing funk and adjacent tunes while focusing on subjects such as time and groove, improvisation, and phrasing that's appropriate for this music. All levels are encouraged to enroll!

### **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**

#### **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!

#### **Mixed Media with Annaleah Gregoire (grades 9-12)**

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!

### **Other**

#### **Chess with Ivan Harder (grades 6-12)**

Chess is the best!