



VISUAL FINE ARTS

Assumption High School's Visual Fine Arts Pathway invites students to explore their creativity and develop technical skills through a variety of artistic mediums. Courses in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, and digital media provide students with hands-on experience in both traditional and contemporary art forms. This pathway encourages personal expression, critical thinking, and an appreciation for visual culture. Students have opportunities to showcase their work through exhibitions and competitions, building a strong portfolio for college or future artistic endeavors.

FOUNDATIONAL COURSES include Intro to the Arts, Intro to Drawing & Painting, Intro to Digital Art, Intro to Ceramics & Sculpture

PATHWAY COURSES:

DRAWING I & II

These sequential courses offer students a comprehensive foundation and continued development in the art of drawing. Drawing I is designed for beginners and focuses on essential skills such as proportion, perspective, value, and mark making. Students work with a variety of media including pencil, pen, charcoal, and colored pencils while also studying the work of influential artists to inspire their own creations. Drawing II builds on these fundamentals, guiding students through more advanced techniques and deeper exploration of the elements and principles of art. Students experiment with media such as graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, and printmaking while exploring diverse artistic styles and developing their personal voice through creative expression.

PAINTING I & II

These courses guide students through both the foundational and advanced techniques of painting, offering a rich exploration of artistic expression through various media. Painting I introduces students to the fundamentals of working with acrylic and watercolor paints, with a strong emphasis on color theory, color mixing, and basic painting techniques. Students also study renowned painters and the art movements they represent to inspire their own creative work. Painting II is designed for the more experienced and committed artist, expanding into advanced topics such as portraiture, abstraction, and en plein air painting. In addition to acrylic and watercolor, students are introduced to oil painting and continue to explore the works and styles of influential artists throughout history. Together, these courses provide a comprehensive and inspiring journey into the world of painting.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I & II

These courses offer a comprehensive journey into the art, technique, and creative expression of digital photography. Digital Photography I introduces students to the fundamentals of photography, including camera operations such as aperture, shutter speed, and semiautomatic functions, all using professional-grade cameras. Students learn to edit images using Adobe Photoshop, explore various file formats, and focus on composition to create visually compelling photographs. Projects include portraiture, action, landscape, and nature photography. Digital Photography II builds on these skills with an emphasis on shooting in full manual mode and refining artistic voice. Students deepen their understanding of composition and lighting, explore experimental techniques, and enhance their editing skills using both Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Through critiques, field trips, and a studio-based approach, students create a digital portfolio and exhibit their work throughout the semester.

AP DRAWING

This is a college-level class in which students add to their portfolio from Drawing II and Painting II. The portfolio is developed around a personal theme that students expand on throughout the school year. Students select their own subject matter and media for this course as they complete 12 original pieces. In May, the digital portfolio is submitted to the College Board for judging. All artwork is returned to the students.

AP 2D ART & DESIGN

This is a college-level class in which students add to their portfolio from Digital Photography I and II and Graphic Design I and II. The portfolio is developed around a personal theme that students expand on throughout the school year. Students select their own subject matter and media for this course as they complete 12 original pieces. In May, digital images of the artwork and five selected originals are sent to the College Board for judging. All artwork will be returned to the students.

PATHWAY COURSES:

CERAMICS I & II

These courses guide students through the fundamentals and advanced techniques of working with clay. In Ceramics I, students build on basic 3D art concepts and develop hand-building skills using coil, pinch, and slab methods, while also being introduced to wheel throwing. Ceramics II deepens these skills with more complex forms, refined wheel techniques, and new surface treatments, encouraging greater creativity and craftsmanship in ceramic art.

SCULPTURE

This course builds on the elements and principles of 3D art and basic sculpture techniques introduced in Introduction to Ceramics and Sculpture. Students work with plaster, clay, cardboard, and metal to further explore casting, assemblage as well as jewelry fabrication.

AP 3D ART & DESIGN

This course is designed to allow the advanced art student the opportunity to further develop the skills taught in previous 3D art courses. It is an intense study of various three-dimensional techniques and media, resulting in an AP portfolio consisting of 16 works to be reviewed for college credit

GRAPHIC DESIGN I & II

These courses provide a comprehensive foundation and deeper exploration into the world of graphic design. Graphic Design I introduces students to core design principles through hands-on projects using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator while also exploring the history of design movements and influential designers. Graphic Design II builds on these skills with a focus on design, illustration, and advertising. Students create professional-level work such as logos, posters, and informational graphics, study contemporary design trends, and engage in real-world experiences by working with clients and applying the Design Thinking process.

AP ART HISTORY

In the AP Art History course, students explore painting, sculpture and architecture from cave paintings to 21st century art. Students learn about European art, as well as art from around the globe, as they discuss such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Students prepare for the AP Art History exam through which college credit can be earned.

CLUBS & COMPETITIONS

- Participate art clubs including Art Club and *Rose Window* literary magazine.
- Submit your artwork in the Scholastic Art competitions.
- Attend the community art shows.
- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen fine arts discipline—such as visual arts, illustration, graphic design, ceramics, or art education—to gain firsthand insight into creative processes, studio practices, and career opportunities in the visual arts.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that introduce students to a variety of fine arts fields, industry practices, and creative career paths.