

Fine Arts

Why Teach Art? Art is the embodiment of human imagination, the record of human achievement, and the process which distinguishes us as human beings. “We form human communities and cultures by making art – through stories and songs, drama and dance, painting and sculpture, architecture and design.”

In the art curriculum each student will develop her technical skills, expand her visual vocabulary and express herself creatively.

She will learn to give visual form to her ideas and feelings by using a variety of materials. Each student can choose those art courses that best suit her needs and goals. Art works and portfolios are regularly displayed at Ursuline and in the greater community.

Course Offerings

Fundamentals of Art - This is the pre-requisite for all other fine art classes. This foundational course provides students with a sampling of many art materials and visual concepts as an introduction to the discipline. Topics and skills covered include: contour drawing, tonal shading, painting with acrylics, printmaking, and sculpting with clay and more!

Drawing & Painting - In this course students will take a more in-depth look at what makes a strong composition while working with various drawing and painting techniques and materials. Students have more freedom in choosing images and experimenting with how to use the materials. This course is a prerequisite for Advanced Studio and AP Art.

Hand Building in Clay - This course will explore the medium of clay through a variety of hand building techniques and produce pinched, coiled and slab-built forms. Students will experiment with surface treatments also, to add complexity to their designs.

Advanced Hand Building in Clay – Continue to explore the medium of clay through this course. Students will learn more advanced finishing techniques, build abstract forms, and take on more responsibility as they further learn about how a ceramics studio runs. Students will have greater independence as they add their personal vision to final projects.

Photography- Students learn to express artistic ideas using a digital camera. Students will explore the history of photography with a special emphasis on photojournalism and portraiture. Students will also complete a photo essay expressing ideas about their community and their place in it.

Graphic Design - In this course visual arts concepts are explored through computer-based graphics. Students will use Adobe software as an artistic tool as they delve into photo editing, corporate identity, illustration, animation, layout, and more!

Enameling - Enameling consists of fusing glass to copper by firing in a kiln. Students will learn to apply and control these elements in the creation of sgraffito, stencil, cloisonné, and tooled pieces. This is a very hands-on class, as the student can work with materials they may never have experienced before.

Design - This course teaches students to apply their knowledge and practice of “good design” to various real-world problems for a fictional client. Working according to the principles of design and elements of art, students will use a variety of materials and touch on concepts and skills that are applicable to interior design, graphic design, fashion design, and beyond.

Advanced Studio - This course furthers a serious painting and drawing student through media exploration, thematic prompts, and an informed perspective gained through the study of historical and contemporary art. Students are encouraged to integrate previously learned techniques and form a personalized mode of expression. Students may also compile/begin a portfolio of their work for entrance into college art departments. Quality and individuality are stressed. *Students who plan to take AP Senior year are encouraged to take Advanced Studio Junior year.*

Advanced Placement Drawing or 2D-Design - The AP Drawing and AP 2D-Design courses are college level courses in the visual arts. Students will be expected to produce a minimum of twenty-four works of art in a variety of media, techniques, and subject matter in compliance with the Advanced Placement Programs in art.