

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



Arts Achievements

Interest and Support

- 90% of Upper School students enrolled in arts classes or programs annually
- 30% of Upper School students involved in music performance groups and drama productions
- Arts Program directed by full-time Director of Arts

Performance Opportunities

- 2 Upper School jazz ensembles, a string ensemble, and a klezmer band
- Upper School Parksingers Chorus and three *a capella* groups: Eightnotes, Vocal Chords, and Madrigals
- Performance Choruses for 4th/5th Grades and Middle School
- Middle School string ensemble
- 4th/5th Grades and Middle School Bands
- Lower School Percussion Ensemble
- 4 theater productions per year in Upper School with sets designed and constructed by students
- Eighth Grade full-scale production, part of the Middle School arts rotation
- Additional plays directed and produced by students

Outcomes

- Students admitted to nationally recognized arts colleges, theater programs, and music conservatories, including RISD, Pratt, MICA, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Oberlin Conservatory, Cooper Union, NYU Tisch School of the Arts, California College of the Arts, Manhattan School of Music, Berklee College of Music, and Eastman School of Music
- Students submit art portfolios as part of application to liberal arts colleges
- 30% of alumni report that arts were very important to them while at Park
- 25% of alumni participate in arts programs in college
- 10% of alumni are involved in the arts as a professional career; many nationally recognized for professional accomplishments

Arts Curriculum

Lower School

Visual Arts: 1 75 minute class per week
Music: 2 classes per week (Orff, Kodaly, Delcroze)
Options: Chorus—Grades 4 and 5
Vocal and Instrumental Music—after-school group and individual lessons, all grades,
Percussion Ensemble, Band
Faculty: 4 full-time music and art teachers

Middle School

Grades 6 and 7—Visual Arts, Music, and Theater in trimester rotation; classes meet 4 times per week
Grade 8—Visual Arts, Music, and Theater electives; students elect one course per semester, which meets 4 times per week
Options: Chorus, Vocal and Instrumental Music lessons, String Ensemble, Band
Faculty: 3 full-time and 2 part-time music, art, and theater teachers

Upper School

4 semesters are required for graduation

Visual Arts Electives

Drawing, Painting, Figure Drawing, Graphic Design, Architectural Model Making, Photography, Exhibitions, Digital Photography, Art History, Film Studies, Film History, Jewelry, Woodworking, Ceramics, Sculpture, Design, Art History, Junior Portfolio, Senior Studio

Performing Arts Electives

Accelerated Music Theory, Music Technology, Music Performance, Beatz, Electronics for Musicians, Acoustics, Audio Production, String Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Parksingers, Eightnotes, Vocal Chords, Madrigals; Fall, Winter, and Spring Theatrical Productions; Acting, Advanced Acting, Character and Comedy, Set Design, Directing, and Keyboarding

Faculty

7 full-time and 3 part-time music, art, film, and theater teachers

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Program Design and Philosophy

At Park, the arts are an essential part of our daily lives. They frame our experience of the world, serve as vehicles for personal expression, and enhance our exploration of history, culture, and heritage. Our students experience the arts as painters, actors, dancers, and musicians, as audience members, critics, and teachers. Art is often part of teaching and learning in other subjects. Art is everywhere in the school.

In kindergarten through eighth grade, a sequenced and developmental program in visual and performing arts emphasizes expression, creativity, and skill mastery. In the Upper School, the arts program provides opportunities for advanced study and accomplishment in several art disciplines.

Special programs and performances bring artists to our community. An Exhibitions Program brings several shows by visiting artists of national reputation to the school each year. An Upper School Exhibitions class assists in curating the shows and speaks about them in assemblies and to smaller groups in gallery presentations. Students in all grades meet and work with local and national artists, create works of art that address similar themes, and hang their pieces in a complementary exhibition.

Residencies, assemblies, and trips to museums, theaters, concert halls, and studios provide additional opportunities for students to learn from visual artists, musicians, dancers, and actors.

Facilities

Wyman Arts Center

The Wyman Arts Center opened in the fall of 2003. This 3-story, 44,500 square foot addition includes:

- 4 visual arts classrooms
- photography studio with 16 stations
- ceramics and sculpture studios
- digital imaging lab
- 4 music classrooms
- 8 practice rooms
- keyboard lab and recording studio
- black box theater
- dance studio
- rehearsal studio
- arts library
- exhibition gallery
- art history classroom
- arts conference room