

Visual Arts Curriculum

The visual arts are integral to the intellectual, emotional, and physical growth of students. Visual art provides an opportunity for students to be expressive in different media. Higher order thinking skills are developed. At the same time, there is a need for people who are creative, good problem solvers, and independent workers. The visual arts help students develop these qualities. Art education is also designed to help students learn to value God's beautiful creations.

700 Art I **All Grades** **.5 credit**

This one-semester course is a prerequisite for many of the other art courses. **Art I** addresses learning and practicing many media techniques, an awareness of the elements of art, and an appreciation and analysis of artists' works. Students will draw, paint, collage, and sculpt while working from observation, as well as from photo resources. Students will learn and practice foundational drawing skills as these skills are necessary for any further art courses. They will gain an understanding of incorporating compositional techniques in their own works, too. Written work, quizzes, and tests are as important to the course as the creation of art itself. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

705 Drawing I **All Grades** **.5 credit** *Prerequisite: Art I*

This one-semester course is designed for those who wish to pursue drawing more intensely. Working mostly from observation, students will be asked to critique their work carefully and take responsibility for making the necessary improvements. They will work both with value studies as well as full color. The students will also spend time analyzing the works of other artists. Mixed media techniques will be introduced and practiced in the second quarter. Written work, quizzes, and tests are important aspects of the course. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

717 Drawing II **All Grades** **.5 credit** *Prerequisite: Drawing I*

This course is designed for the student who has developed technical skills and wishes to continue intense practice of techniques. Students will work on various assigned projects throughout the semester, as well as several individually themed pieces. The process of selecting a theme for each piece will be a collaboration between the artist and the teacher. Once decided, students will create their own compositions in the drawing media of their choice. Students will also spend time analyzing the works of other artists. Each student will complete a minimum of 10 drawings during the semester. Work outside of class is expected. Written work, quizzes, and tests are as important as the creation of art itself. Attendance at the Art Show is mandatory.

707 Painting I **All Grades** **.5 credit** *Prerequisite: Art I or Drawing I*

This one-semester course is designed for those who wish to pursue painting more intensely. Students will begin by gaining an understanding of the skills of color mixing and working from observation. Using acrylic, tempera, and watercolor, the students will learn and practice working from observation and photo resources. Students will be asked to critique their work more deeply and take responsibility for making the necessary improvements. They will work both with value students as well as full color. Mixed media techniques will be introduced and practiced in the second quarter. Written work, quizzes, and tests are important aspects of the course. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

718 Painting II
All Grades .5 credit
Prerequisite: Painting I

This course is designed for the student who has developed technical skills and wishes to continue intense practice of techniques. Students will work on various assigned projects throughout the semester, as well as several individually themed pieces. The process of selecting a theme for each piece will be a collaboration between the artist and the teacher. Once decided, each student will complete a minimum of ten paintings during the semester. Work outside of class will be necessary. Attendance at the Art Show is mandatory.

710 Clay I
All Grades .5 credit

Students will create a variety of clay pieces, learning and practicing the hand-building techniques of coils, slabs, hollow forms, and extrusions. They will also learn and practice basic wheel throwing. This course includes learning three-dimensional design concepts and analyzing craftsmanship quality. Emphasis will be on improvement of personal craftsmanship. Written work, quizzes, and tests are integral parts of the class. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

712 Clay II
All Grades .5 credit
Prerequisite: Clay I

Students will continue to practice the hand-building techniques from **Clay I** while beginning to work on a larger scale with more advanced forms. Throwing techniques will be practiced and students will be expected to master many different forms on the wheel. Advanced forms, such as teapots, will be practiced as well as the concepts of creating “sets” of wares. Emphasis is placed on high craftsmanship, balance within the forms, and advanced glazing techniques. Written work, quizzes, and tests are as much parts of the course at the creation of art. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

720 Clay III
All Grades .5 credit
Prerequisite: Clay II

Students will continue to practice hand-building techniques and wheel-throwing skills. Students will also be asked to accomplish more serious critiquing of their forms. Multiple different forms will be created with an emphasis on creating original, thought-provoking work in clay. A sketchbook will be maintained with weekly assignments and critiques. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

722 Clay IV
All Grades .5 credit
Prerequisite: Clay III

Clay IV continues to fine-tune students’ abilities on and off the wheel. Students will learn an appreciation for the entire clay process by being involved with the mixing of clay and loading/unloading of kilns. Students will research ceramic artists and gain an understanding of the importance of ceramics in the history of the art world. Students will help with the process of selecting themes for each piece and will need to commit to time out of class to finish works. The use of non-traditional clay materials will be introduced as well as more advanced glazing techniques. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

725 Photography I
All Grades .5 credit
Requirements: Students must provide their own digital cameras (5 Megapixel or more). Cameras must have USB cables or removable memory cards and instruction manuals.

Students will learn to use digital cameras while investigating how to make and produce quality photographic images. They will study the history of photography, elements and principles of art and design as they relate to photography, aesthetics, and art appreciation with an emphasis on effective visual communication. Anyone can take a snapshot, but one must learn to see before he understands how to make a good photograph. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

726 Photography II / Digitally Enhanced
All Grades .5 credit

*Prerequisite: **Photography I** or permission of instructor.*

Students must provide their own digital cameras (5 Megapixel or more and pen/flash drive (128 MB or better – 256 MB preferred). Cameras must have USB cables or removable memory cards and instruction manuals.

Students will learn how to improve existing digital images as well as how to create new dynamic images using photographic imaging software. They will study basic image file formats and how to work with them; learn how to perform standard adjustments and editing techniques to improve or alter images; and explore various manipulation procedures to change or create new images, all within the digital desktop environment. They will review elements and principles of art and design as they relate to photography, and expand their eye for aesthetics and art appreciation with an emphasis on visual expression and communication. Attendance at the Art Show is required.

728 Video Production I
All Grades .5 credit

Students in the course will be exposed to various aspects of video production in a cooperative crew setting in which they will gain hands-on knowledge and develop media skills through in-class, studio, and field activities, in addition to live webcasting. Processes covered in class include pre-production planning, shooting, basic lighting techniques, sound editing, and live production. Students will be exposed both to technical and artistic concerns as well as theories of expression, interpretation and critical analysis of moving images throughout our society. Students will be required to perform duties outside of class for Holy Family's webcast **FIRE LIVE!** This course may be taken as a fine art or technology credit. Identify preference on class registration form.

729 Video Production II
All Grades .5 credit

*Prerequisite: **Video Production I** or permission of instructor.*

This semester course builds off the knowledge base students acquire in **Video Production I**, both conceptually and in terms of skill development. Though some projects may be group efforts, **Video II** emphasizes independent inquiry. Students will explore their personal creative vision and expression through a more sophisticated use of cameras, editing tools, sound, and light. Students will also develop a better understanding of the use of moving images through a greater focus on artistic theories and analysis. Students will be required to perform duties outside of class for Holy Family's webcast **Fire Live!** This class may be taken for art or technology credit. Identify preference on class registration form.

Music Curriculum

Music is an art form that speaks to the intellect, the emotions, and the spirit. The satisfactory composition and performance of music, based upon the knowledge gained through careful preparation, is among the most rewarding of human experiences. Great scholars and great thinkers have always considered music to be an essential element in the development of a complete individual. In ancient Greece, as well as the classical schools of the Renaissance, music was at the very core of the curriculum – an equal to mathematics, science, and literature. Aristotle considered music to be the most important subject for the development of the mind.

Music leads to a complete education. It contributes to physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual growth, it opens the mind to new perspectives of the world around us, and it enhances the skills and enriches the knowledge gained in other disciplines.

752/753 Band

All Grades

1 credit

Members of **Concert Band** will have the opportunity to perform many different styles of literature including marches, ballads, medleys, new compositions for wind band, transcriptions, and classics from the band world. Focus is on performance skills, music notations, theory, vocabulary, and interpretation. This class will meet for a full period every day, and students will be required to complete 2-3 lessons with the instructor each quarter. Each student is strongly encouraged, however, to study with a private instructor. Attendance is required at extra rehearsals and all performances. Pep Band is a component of this class, with students playing at 9-10 games each year. This is a year-long course.

756/757 Jazz Ensemble

All Grades

1 credit

*Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in **Concert Band** (exceptions: piano, bass, guitar)*

The **Jazz Ensemble** is selected by audition only and is both curricular and extracurricular, in that the group meets every day opposite lunch and also meets for one 60-90-minute rehearsal either after school, in the evening, or on a weekend. The specific time will depend on the students' schedules. The **Jazz Ensemble** will perform a wide range of jazz styles including swing, funk, Latin, and ballad. Members are limited to alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, guitar, bass, and drums. This group performs at Coffee House twice a year and Jazz Nite in the spring. They may also travel to jazz festivals throughout the year. This is a year-long course.

758/759 String Ensemble

All Grades

1 credit

Members of the **String Ensemble** will have the opportunity to perform classic and popular repertoire for strings. The group includes all four members of the string family: violin, viola, cello, and bass. The class meets for one full period every day and students will be required to complete 2-3 lessons with the instructor each quarter, unless they study with a private teacher. Attendance is required at all extra rehearsal and performances. This is a year-long course.

760 Chorus

9th – 10th Grades

.5 credit

The **Chorus** is the beginning vocal ensemble at Holy Family. All freshmen and nearly all sophomores who wish to participate in vocal music must register for **Chorus**. This is a preparatory group whose primary focus is on the development of important musical skills. The ensemble meets daily opposite lunch and explores solfege-based sight-reading, ear training, music theory concepts, proper vocal technique/tone production, music vocabulary, quality choral literature, and professional performance practices. Membership in the **Chorus** for at least one academic year is a prerequisite for membership in the **Camerata** or the **Chorale**. The **Chorus** performs at least two formal concerts each year and, occasionally, joins the **Camerata** and/or the **Chorale** for other performances. This is a year-long course.

778/779 Camerata

10th-12th Grades

1 credit

Prerequisite: Chorus or equivalent

The **Camerata** is a women's choir consisting mostly of sophomore but which is also open to juniors and seniors. Members of the **Camerata** must have completed at least one year in **Chorus** (or the equivalent). This auditioned ensemble performs a varied choral repertoire from all major styles and historical eras composed for female voices. The **Camerata** rehearsed daily for a full period and typically performs 4-6 times each year, both at school and in the community. Students work to prepare quality choral repertoire and continue to develop the skills learned in the **Chorus**. Participation in the Solo-Ensemble Festival is highly encouraged for members of **Camerata**. This is a year-long course.

776/777 Chorale

10th-12th Grades

1 credit

Prerequisite: Chorus

The **Chorale** is the most advance choral ensemble at Holy Family and typically consists of 30-40 sophomore, junior, and senior voices. Members of the **Chorale** must have completed at least one year in **Chorus** or the equivalent. The **Chorale** rehearses daily for a full class period and focuses on challenging SATB repertoire from all major styles and historical eras, with a particular emphasis on great choral masterworks and/or music of great European and American composers. A great deal of emphasis is placed on the development of a healthy vocal technique and the mastery of a rich and mature choral tone. This auditioned ensemble maintains a very active schedule with performances at choral festivals, regional Catholic grade schools, liturgies, school concerts, and other venues. Participation in the Solo-Ensemble Festival and All-State Choir auditions is highly encouraged for members of the **Chorale**. This is a year-long course.

770/771 Voices of Fire

All Grades

1 credit

Prerequisite: concurrent enrollment in Chorus, Camerata, or Chorale

Voices of Fire is an 8-10 member vocal jazz group and is the most select vocal ensemble at Holy Family. It is both curricular and extracurricular, in that the group meets daily opposite lunch and also meets for a 90-minute rehearsal each week after school, in the evening, or on weekends. The group works with a standard jazz rhythm section (piano, bass, and drums) and is available to perform for civic and church groups, community organizations, etc., upon request. **Voices of Fire** also performs at regular school concerts and routinely travels to vocal jazz festivals and workshops. Members are chosen by strict audition, and any member of **Chorus**, **Camerata**, or **Chorale** may audition. An excellent musical ear and accurate intonation are essential for membership in this ensemble. This is a year-long course.

784 Fundamentals of Music Theory

10th-12th Grades

.5 credit

This semester course is designed to teach music literacy and to increase students' knowledge of music beyond performance. Students will develop the ability to recognize, understand, describe, and/or notate the basic concepts and processes of music that are heard or presented in a music score. In order to allow students to achieve a well-rounded understanding of musical structure, this course will address the basic elements of music (melody, harmony, rhythm, form, etc.) as well as compositional, analytical, and aural skills. Course concepts will be primarily based in Western music. Attempts will be made, however, to cross-relate certain musical ideas in order to increase appreciation of all musical traditions. Students will also have the opportunity to investigate careers in music, philosophies of music, and music's connection to culture and other fine arts. This course will be especially useful for students who plan to pursue music in a post-secondary environment.

World Languages