



The Arts

Mount Madonna School has a comprehensive program in Visual and Performing Arts that spans the seven years of middle and high school. All students are required to take all of the Arts classes; they are not elective. This includes a full-time commitment to Musical Theater productions in all grades. All students audition and participate actively in two productions each year. In addition, students in grades 6-10 spend time in the Fine Arts Studio developing visual arts technique. Classes in Dance, Music, and Digital Art complete the Arts offerings.

Performing Arts (Grades 6-12) _____

Along with providing a platform for expanding skills in all aspects of musical theatre, Performing Arts at Mount Madonna presents a dynamic opportunity for students to engage in collaborative community building. Students learn not only about theatre, but also about the importance of respect, responsibility, accountability, mutual support and openness to one another. In the first quarter, after participating in song share, students engage in the audition process, including prepared dance, songs, scenes or monologues. The class provides an opportunity to discover individual strengths, talents and confidences. Even more importantly, students work together in a larger context to develop community and to foster the positive qualities of teamwork, support, and respect for each other. Theatrically, this is a course less about acting, dancing and singing in isolation and more about putting truth on stage.

Middle School Fine Art (Grades 6-8) _____

Middle school students spend time in the art studio learning the basic skills of technique and craftsmanship in visual art. Students learn perspective, color theory, draftsmanship, and 2D and 3D design. Students explore multiple media and are encouraged to discover and explore their own creative process.

Art Studio (Grades 9 and 10) _____

Students in High School expand their studio art techniques. The classes study anatomy, line drawing, print-making, color-mixing and painting, and composition. Students receive and give art critiques and develop their sense of discernment and reflection as part of the creative process. Students explore aesthetics and observation skills.

Dance (Grades 6-8) _____

Middle School students take a weekly course in dance movement and technique from around the world. Students keep a journal and develop knowledge and appreciation for different styles of dance. The class works-on self expression as well as skills development in patterns, motion, vocabulary, choreography, and anatomy.

Music (Grades 6-10) _____

Students in music class learn to use and appreciate their unique voice through solo exploration and ensemble performance preparation. Basic music theory and oral skills combine with an emphasis on vocal technique to improve student confidence in the ability to create music.

Digital Art (Grade 9)

Digital Art is a semester long course which meets for 1 period every week. Students are introduced to the basic tools of powerful design and image editing software, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Students engage in the important brainstorming process of thumbnail sketching, in which they sketch their ideas in before deciding on a direction for each project. Sketching is done using pencil and paper as well as computer software (Adobe InDesign and Photoshop). Students are led through the process of designing and producing a poster and a greeting card. Students are asked to consider basic design elements of line, shape, color, texture and space. The overall composition of an art piece is of paramount importance; students are challenged to consider the way that each aspect of their art contributes to a finished product.

Digital Photography (Grade 10)

In Digital Photography, students learn how to take and edit photographs as an outlet for self-expression. Students learn portraiture and digital art techniques. In addition, students are asked to develop the ability to understand how others express their views and vision through photography. The class requires production of quality photographs for use in social media and blogs.

Yearbook (Grade 12)

During senior year, students learn the techniques of page layout and digital graphic design as they produce an all-school yearbook. The class progresses over the entire year. Seniors are responsible for coordinating with members of the school community across divisions to ensure the yearbook meets the needs of everyone. Students gain competence with current software tools in graphic design.