

# The Arts

The Arts

Mount Madonna School offers a comprehensive program in Visual and Performing Arts that spans the seven years of middle and high school. 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 6-12 spend time in the Fine Arts Studio developing visual arts technique. Classes in Dance, Music, Digital Photography and Digital Design complete the Arts offerings. Along with providing a platform for expanding skills in all aspects of musical theatre, Performing Arts at Mount Madonna School 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 confidence. 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 9-12)**

Students in high school expand their studio art techniques. The classes study anatomy, line drawing, printmaking, 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 movements and techniques from around the world. Students keep a journal and develop knowledge and appreciation for different styles of dance. The class focuses 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 students' confidence in their ability to create music.

## **Digital Design (Grade 11)**

Digital Design is a one-semester course which meets for one period each week. Students are introduced to the basic tools of professional level design and image editing software, Adobe InDesign and Photoshop. Students engage in the important brainstorming process, in which they sketch their ideas before committing to a direction for each project. Students are led through the process of designing and producing a variety of formats: poster, greeting card, business card, etc. Students are asked to consider basic design elements of line, shape, color, texture and space, as well as design principles such as balance, emphasis and unity. 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 the finished product.

## **Digital Photography (Grade 10)**

In Digital Photography, students learn how to shoot and edit photographs as a vehicle for self-expression. Students learn portraiture and digital art techniques. Students are guided 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: Adobe Design & Production (Grade 12)**

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

## **History of Art with Studio (Grade 11 or 12)**

This is a combined studio and art history course. Students complete eleven units covering a critical and reflective look at the world art throughout history, and the techniques used to produce the art in particular movements or moments in history. They then create a work of art using techniques or simulations similar to conditions during that time in history. Students keep a journal critiquing the art studied and allowing for reflection and metacognition; in addition, they take academic assessments and write essays to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge of the unit's content.

## **Fine Art Photography (Grade 12)**

Using the prompt Mother Nature, students learn how to manipulate a DSLR (digital single lens reflex camera) or equivalent in order to create the kind of artistic work the photographer intends to create. The students are expected to shoot at least 40 images for this project and produce a series of photographs based on the prompt given. The students then mount their final works as a body of work based on Mother Nature. They also write a paragraph that is complementary to their work; this can be an artist statement or a storytelling piece.