

# FINE ARTS

<b>GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:</b> 1/2 year			
<b>Freshmen Electives:</b>	<b>Sophomores Electives:</b>	<b>Juniors Electives:</b>	<b>Seniors Electives:</b>
Ceramics Computer Graphics Drawing & Painting Photography		Ceramics Computer Graphics Drawing & Painting Photography American Studies: Art	Ceramics Computer Graphics Drawing & Painting Photography Religious Themes in Art
Beginning Guitar		Beginning Guitar	Beginning Guitar Music Theory (Independent Study) STA Choir
STA Choir VISTA Concert/ Military Band VISTA Jazz Band VISTA String Orchestra	STA Choir VISTA Concert/ Military Band VISTA Jazz Band VISTA String Orchestra	STA Choir VISTA Concert/ Military Band VISTA Jazz Band VISTA String Orchestra	VISTA Concert/ Military Band VISTA Jazz Band VISTA String Orchestra Theatre Independent Theatre

## VISUAL ARTS

The art program is designed to give students a working knowledge of the tools and language of the visual arts so that they are able to think effectively, work creatively, and know first hand the artistic experience. The offerings of the program are varied and aim to meet the individual needs of the student at any level of development and from any background of artistic experience. It is the goal of the art department that the students will accomplish each of the following:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the art skills, techniques, and concepts used to convey ideas.
- Apply both abstract reasoning and emotional intuitive responses during the art experience.
- Convey ideas through multiple stage techniques and mixed media processes.
- Make knowledgeable aesthetic value judgments based on personal work, the work of other students, and artists of the past and present.
- Have an art work exhibited and experience art in a gallery or museum setting.
- Understand the relationship of arts to society and demonstrate respect for the expressions of others.

**CERAMICS** 1 year (T/Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 Weight: 0.4

Ceramics is an introduction to clay practice with consideration of materials, methods, concepts, and history. Course work covers both hand-built and wheel-thrown techniques in the sculptural and functional realm. Students will develop aesthetic awareness of the ceramic form and surface.

**COMPUTER GRAPHICS** 1 year (T/Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 Weight: 0.4

This computer graphics course will provide students with the opportunity to develop an understanding of the power, precision, creative inspiration and control of computer graphics. Graphic design pushes the boundaries of digital imaging and is a must for students pursuing careers in marketing, business, journalism, PR work, design, advertising, illustration, web design, and video game design. During the semester, students will explore Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator Creative Suite 5. Course work will be completed on Macintosh computers with the use of digital cameras, scanners and printers.

**DRAWING & PAINTING** 1 year (T/Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 Weight: 0.4

This course introduces students to drawing and painting with attention to understanding and applying the fundamental principles of spatial organization and color theory. Course work covers classroom drawing situations, as well as weekly homework assignments in a sketchbook. Media includes graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, pen and ink, pastels, acrylic and watercolor paint. Students will learn the elements and principles of design. A gallery visit is included as well as the experience of matting finished works of art.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** 1 year (T/Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 Weight: 0.4

Students will learn the basics of digital SLR camera operation and photo creation. Emphasis is on creating artistic photographs using the elements of art. Students will expand their skills in creating artistic photographs while exploring various experimental photographic techniques. Registrants for this course will be expected to provide a digital SLR camera with manual light and speed adjustments.

**AMERICAN STUDIES: ART** 1 year  
Grade Level: 11 Weight: 0.4

**Prerequisite:** Ability and desire to work independently and with a group to succeed in an interdisciplinary class. Satisfies: US History 11. Students must also register for American Studies English and American Studies: History.

This course is integrated into American Studies English and U.S. History and derives themes from these two areas for art subjects. Media study for each quarter includes watercolor, printmaking, portraits, and mixed media. The lecture component covers the American Vision Series by Robert Hughes as well as The Ash Can group, Hudson River School, Pop Art, Mount Rushmore, The Chrysler Building, The WPA Art Project as well as individual artists such as Winslow Homer, Mya Linn, Norman Rockwell, Edward Hopper, Roy Lichtenstein, Georgia O’Keeffe, Grant Wood, Louise Nevelson, and others as they tell the American story.

**RELIGIOUS THEMES IN ART AND ADVANCED MORALITY** 1 semester each  
Grade Level: 12 Weight: 1.0

Religious Themes in Art explores a variety of spiritual themes and the means artists use to express them. Judeo-Christian traditions serve as the content base. Students will grow in their appreciation of their own spiritual experiences and, above all, will understand themselves as creators. Topics and media include religious symbols, social justice themes, religious leaders, historical leaders, and the computer. The artists of the Renaissance, a field trip as part of a church architecture unit, and the building of a cross complete the semester.

**Students are also registered in Advanced Morality.**

The Advanced Morality seminar uses the maturity of seniors to discuss issues chosen and led by students. The list of possible issues is a long one, but the course covers abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, discrimination, poverty, religious freedom, and other moral and ethical issues of our time that the Pope has highlighted as being critical in today’s society. Using Catholic social teachings and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, students study the principles that define and clarify the Church’s position on these issues in order to illuminate their thought processes.

## MUSIC

The music program at Saint Thomas Academy is designed to promote and direct musical growth, help members become proficient on their chosen instruments or with their voices, and provide a creative outlet for musical talent. The music department also serves as a support group for the Academy at athletic events, liturgies, parades, and concerts where the general public is invited. It is our objective that the students:

- Become proficient at their chosen instruments or with their voices to a level consistent with the average level at each grade.
- Become familiar with different historical styles and composers of music through the performance of balanced repertoires.
- Learn what it is like to be a part of a large group, all working towards the same goal, where the efforts of any one individual are considered essential to achieving that goal.
- Be prepared and motivated enough to continue singing or playing their instruments in college and for life, even if only for recreation.
- Attain the maximum level of achievement the member's talent allows him to reach.
- Note: Physical Education 2 is waived for sophomores in Band/Choir/Orchestra.

### **VISTA CONCERT BAND/STA MILITARY**

**BAND** 1 year (T-W-Th)  
Grade Level: 9-12 Weight: 1.0  
Honors Credit: 1.1

**Prerequisite:** Two years experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or prior approval by the director.

The VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band is open to all students with prior band experience. This ensemble presents three formal concerts each school year. The band also performs at athletic and community events. STA students in the band form their own military company within the school and provide music for many ceremonies. In addition to furthering personal growth as individual musicians, emphasis is placed on creating a unified musical expression by the entire ensemble through large group rehearsals, weekly private instruction and sectionals. Attendance at a limited number of rehearsals and performances outside the school day is expected of all members.

**VISTA JAZZ ENSEMBLE** 1 Year (T, W, Th)  
Grade Level: 9-12 Weight 0.6  
A/F will fulfill an arts credit requirement.

**Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of audition in May for the following academic year. Participation is limited to traditional jazz instruments: saxophones, trumpets, trombones and rhythm section (bass, guitar, piano, drum set.) This course is open to students from both STA and Visitation. The VISTA Jazz Ensemble meets three times weekly during zero hour for full ensemble and sectional rehearsals. Students will study, prepare and perform jazz music from a wide variety of genres and historical periods. VISTA Jazz performs at three formal concerts and other school and community events.

### **STA CHOIR**

Grade Level: 9-12 1 year (T-Th)  
Weight: 0.4

The STA Choir meets during the school day. This course is open to 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. The focus of this class is to help young men develop their singing voice through singing and performing many styles of music. Students participate in rigorous daily activities that include study in rhythm, vocal technique, solfege, sight singing and movement. Choir members work together as a team, learning how to perform together in both small and large ensembles. The choir performs at school concerts and events, the community and tours bi-annually with the other VISTA performing groups.

**VISTA STRING ORCHESTRA** 1year (T-W-Th)  
Grade Level: 7-12 Weight: 0.6

**Prerequisite:** Two years experience playing a string instrument.

The Vista Orchestra includes string players in grades 9 – 12 from Visitation and Saint Thomas Academy. Musicians interested in this class must play the violin, viola, cello, or bass, and must have at least two years of playing experience. String Orchestra is an elective that meets as a regular class in the school day schedule. The string Orchestra curriculum focuses not only on developing musical skills, but also on developing an understanding and appreciation of music through the study, rehearsal, and performance of concert repertoire. The string orchestra participates in numerous concerts and special events throughout the school year.

**BEGINNING GUITAR**

Grade Level: 9, 11, 12

1 year (T-Th)

Weight: 0.4

Beginning Guitar is an entry-level fine arts elective course for those students interested in gaining knowledge and skills related to acoustical guitar. Over the length of this course, students will learn the parts of the guitar, chord progressions, scales, strumming patterns, accompaniment figures and arpeggios. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to play and accompany basic folk and rock songs in their own student-led ensembles. School-owned guitars are available for use during class time and to check-out for at-home practice. Students will receive a grade based upon the following factors: knowledge of the instrument, mastery of basic guitar chords, note reading, scales, attitude/behavior, and small group ensemble playing.

**MUSIC THEORY****(INDEPENDENT STUDY)**

Grade Level: 12

1 year (T-Th)

Weight 0.4

**Prerequisite:** Ability to read music and play an instrument and instructor's approval based on placement test.

Students will improve upon their musical foundation through analysis and study of compositional techniques. Students will explore use of melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic tools to create music for voice, piano, woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments.

**THEATRE****THEATRE**

Grade Level: 12

½ year (M-F)

Weight 1.0

This course explores the elements of theatre from the varied perspectives of actor, scenic designer, technical director, choreographer, producer, and director. The class studies the introduction to acting techniques using monologues and scene work, scenic design and how it affects a production, the job of a director, costume design as it defines the character, and the technical aspect of production. The course also looks at roots of drama and the history of musical theater.

**INDEPENDENT THEATRE**

Grade Level: 11-12

½ year (M-F)

Weight: 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Instructor's approval

The area of study is determined by the student and the teacher. Areas of focus may include: acting, directing, scenic design, costume designing, marketing, play writing, or musical theater. An instructor interview is required, along with approval from the Dean of Academics