

# FINE ARTS

| <b>GRADUATION REQUIREMENT:</b> 1/2 year  |  |  |   |
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| <b>Freshmen Electives:</b>   | <b>Sophomores Electives:</b>   | <b>Juniors Electives:</b>  | <b>Seniors Electives:</b>   |
| Drawing<br>Metal and Wood<br>Paint and Print   |  | Drawing<br>Metal and Wood<br>Paint and Print<br>American Studies:<br>Art   | Drawing<br>Metal and Wood<br>Paint and Print<br>Religious Themes in<br>Art  |
| Music Appreciation<br>Music Theory<br>STA Choir<br>VISTA Concert/<br>Military Band<br>VISTA Jazz Band<br>VISTA String<br>Orchestra | STA Choir<br>VISTA Concert/<br>Military Band<br>VISTA Jazz Band<br>VISTA String<br>Orchestra | Music Appreciation<br>Music Theory<br>STA Choir<br>VISTA Concert/<br>Military Band<br>VISTA Jazz Band<br>VISTA String<br>Orchestra<br><br>Independent<br>Theatre | Music Appreciation<br>Music Theory<br>STA Choir<br>VISTA Concert/<br>Military Band<br>VISTA Jazz Band<br>VISTA String<br>Orchestra<br><br>Theatre<br>Independent<br>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.

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

Course work covers classroom drawing situations, as well as weekly homework assignments in a sketch book. Contour, color theory, and drawing using the right side of the brain methodology are covered. Media include graphite, colored pencils, markers, and ink pens as well as computer work with the program Adobe Photoshop Elements. Students must provide a sketch book for homework, markers, pencils and fine line pens. Finished work is sprayed, signed, and matted by the student. "Being able to draw" is not a requirement.

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

The metal experience for the term includes the design of copper pendants, creation of "domes", and wire used as design elements. Wood is the main material for a nameplate created on the bandsaw. Sculpture is studied using Plexiglas and wire and metal tooling for relief work. The work of artist Alexander Calder is studied and the students create a mobile. Emphasis for the course includes the proper use of tools and equipment and improvement of design.

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

The painting experience includes work with both the airbrush and acrylic paint. Students learn the proper use of materials and equipment, idea development, and painting techniques. Printmaking includes silk-screening and linoleum prints. A gallery visit is included as well as the experience of matting finished prints.

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

**Prerequisite:** Students must also register for American Studies: English & American Studies: History.

This course is integrated into the American Studies English and U.S. History and derives themes from these two areas for art subjects. Media study for each quarter: One is watercolor, two is printmaking, three is portraits, and four is 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 SOCIAL JUSTICE** 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 Social Justice.**

The Social Justice seminar uses the maturity of seniors to discuss issues chosen by the students and led by them. The list of possible issues is a long one, but the course certainly covers abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, discrimination, poverty, religious freedom, and the 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: 0.6

**Prerequisite:** Two years experience playing a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument or director's approval.

VISTA Concert Band/STA Military Band meets during the school day and is open to students from both STA and Visitation. Students are encouraged to grow together as people, instrumentalists, musicians, artists, and thinkers through the study of music in band. VISTA Concert Band gives 3 formal concerts. Pep Band performs at a variety of athletic events, and Marching band makes half time and parade appearances. STA students in band form their own military company within the school and provide music for many military ceremonies. Select wind and percussion players are used for supporting VISTA string ensemble in full orchestra concerts. Through private lessons, sectionals, and full ensemble players, students enjoy musical growth within a unique social atmosphere.

**HON. VISTA JAZZ BAND** 1 Year (T, W, Th)  
Grade Level: 9-12 Honors 1.1

A/F will fulfill an arts credit requirement.  
**Prerequisite:** Audition with the Director

The VISTA Jazz Band meets three times weekly during 0 hour for full ensemble and sectional rehearsals. This course is open to students from both STA and Visitation. Students prepare and perform music in a variety of jazz styles and learn about improvisation. VISTA Jazz performs at 3 formal concerts, an annual community swing dance, and other 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** 1 year (T-W-Th)  
Grade Level: 7-12 Weight: 0.6

**Prerequisite:** Two years experience playing a string, brass, woodwind, or percussion 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 daily 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.

**MUSIC APPRECIATION** 1 year (T-Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 Weight: 0.4

Music Appreciation helps students view music as an outgrowth of a culture within a historical and political context. Students will begin examining current music trends and then apply a model of critique to a variety of musical contests. Music Appreciation is about learning to think critically and examining music beyond surface level. We learn about our own culture through music as well as the cultures of others areas and time periods.

**MUSIC THEORY** 1 year (T-Th)  
Grade Level: 9, 11, 12 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** ½ year (M-F)  
Grade Level: 12 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** ½ year (M-F)  
Grade Level: 11-12 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.