

## **Fine Arts Curriculum**

### **Introduction and Program Philosophy**

The Prince William Academy Art Curriculum focuses on a diverse range of artistic elements. Students learn color mixing, terminology, color theory, the elements of design, and various artistic techniques and styles. Students are exposed to traditional and nontraditional methods of art making through hands-on learning and through the study of art history. Numerous mediums are introduced and each child is encouraged to find his or her own artistic expression. Students complete an end-of-the-year art project that applies the mediums, styles, and techniques learned throughout the school year.

Our goals include not only teaching the children to apply artistic techniques, but also to instill a real love of art. The children learn to see the things around them in a more detail, noting their shape and texture, and the play of light across surfaces. We begin with the fine art techniques upon which all other elements of art are built. Students who have had the course in the past are given more challenges than younger or less experienced classmates, but all are encouraged to simply do their best and enjoy the process. The skills they acquire in art class translate to improvements in other areas of life, including hand-eye coordination, handwriting, and observational skills.

Each art class typically includes students with a wide range of abilities who may pursue multiple pathways to learn effectively, participate meaningfully, and work towards attaining the curricular standard. Students with diverse learning needs may require accommodations or adaptations of instructional strategies and materials to enhance their learning and/or adjust for their learning capabilities.

The most important element that the art curriculum can impart to the students during their time at Prince William Academy is creativity through self-expression. From the very beginning of their time at PWA, children are encouraged to find their artistic voices. Lessons cater to their interests and creative leanings. Art is a cathartic experience, and the curriculum is dedicated to enriching each student's time at Prince William Academy.

### **Overview by Grade Level**

#### **Preschool 2s and 3s**

Beginning as early as age two and three, students learn basic art concepts that help develop their coordination and motor skills. A variety of art materials, including paint, crayons, and glue, are used to help students demonstrate self-expression.

## **Junior Kindergarten**

In Junior Kindergarten the elements of design are introduced, as well the color spectrum and how it relates to color mixing. Students learn the elements that form the basis for effective compositions and color schemes, and explore mediums such as collage, tempera, and dot paintings.

## **Kindergarten**

Kindergarten students expand upon their knowledge of colors and mediums by learning the Color Wheel. They also further employ the elements of design using various mediums.

## **First Grade**

First graders gain knowledge of primary, secondary, and tertiary colors. They utilize this knowledge in a variety of mediums, and expand their vocabulary of artistic terms.

## **Second Grade**

Students further explore the effective use of colors, including the use of complementary colors in their artwork. They are also introduced to the basic concept of creating a focal point in their artwork.

## **Third Grade**

Using knowledge of the elements of design and the Color Wheel, students create compositions with monochromatic, complementary, and a triadic color schemes. Portraits, landscapes, and still lifes are addressed and imitated.

## **Fourth Grade**

Students learn to use major and minor focal points effectively, and to depict movement between the two. The elements of design are easily recognized, and students regularly critique aesthetics.

## **Fifth Grade**

Students are introduced more formally to art history, with a focus on impressionism, pointillism, and abstract art. Techniques such as impasto, glazing, gradation, plein air, grisaille, hatching and cross-hatching are studied. Students also master the use of focal points in their artwork.

## **Sixth Grade**

Students learn and employ effective planning methods for compositions using thumbnail sketches and clear project proposals. Bookmaking techniques are covered, and students make their own sketchbooks to maintain throughout the year. Students also study the history of art from different cultures of the world.

## **Seventh Grade**

Seventh grade students complete projects with a demonstrated mastery of the elements of design and a focus on artistic style. They also study ethnographic art, as well as the old masters and their impact on art movements throughout history.

## **Eighth Grade**

In eighth grade, students learn with an emphasis on life drawing. Students work on self-portraits in an artistic style of the old masters. The philosophy of aesthetics is addressed (what is art?) and modern art such as Dada, Surrealism, and Kinetic art is reviewed. Students also explore non-traditional mediums, and work towards a large-format project.