

# ART MAJOR

## COLLEGE-PREP PROGRAM

### Personalized for Young Artists

The Art Major is a program unique to Cheshire Academy that caters to and supports young artists and designers who want to advance their talents and interests, who enjoy making art, and have the desire to make these pursuits part of their high school experience.

The program offers an honors-level, yearlong course that prepares students who are considering majoring or minoring in art in college and may aspire to a career as an artist. The program advances a talented student's art education through greater understanding of and appreciation for particular forms of artistic expression through broad exploration and in-depth skill building. The individualized experience focuses on each student's passions and talents, expanding their understanding of techniques, styles, and opportunities available to them at CA and beyond.

Moving from middle school level classes and activities to high school college-prep and advanced instruction and lessons requires a commitment to one's craft that is nurtured through the personalized, one-on-one attention and instruction Art Major students receive at CA.

Here, student artists are given the time, space, tools, and direction essential to taking their abilities to the next level.

### Preparing Each Student for the Next Level

Guided by faculty members who are professional artists, each student in the Art Major program is provided with a personal studio workspace and the resources they need in order to explore, design, create, and complete assignments. They work independently on projects of great personal interest with the goals of expanding their proficiency and developing work that will showcase their own talents and individuality.

Part of the faculty's role in the Art Major program is to serve as a consultant to each student. Together, through critiques and discussions, they determine which works of art will significantly impress the admissions committee at the student's college or university of choice.

Ultimately, one end result will be a well-developed and curated portfolio of work for students to use in their pursuit of opportunities at the collegiate level and in future professions.

*(continued)*



*Pursue your artistic passion*

The student's presentation is a compilation of their best work, a demonstration of their skills, approaches, styles, and potential, and becomes part of their college applications.

Through thoughtful research, review, and consideration, students discover options available at the college level and decide what type of art program they wish to enter. Support for their applications is provided by their art teachers and their advisor in the College Counseling Office. And, on an annual basis, representatives from art schools and universities visit the class to review individual portfolios.

***Students enrolled in the Art Major program have already established their artistic base, whether from when they were growing up, or by taking other art courses taught at CA and elsewhere. And while many Art Major alumni have gone on to college for design – approximately 90% – the course itself allows students to explore any medium they want: videography, photography, architecture, fashion, painting, illustration, and others.***

Students in the program are provided the resources, the instruction, and the constructive criticism they need to succeed, all while being treated with respect as young artists and designers. Art resources available at CA include a ceramics room, digital photography lab and studio, printmaking equipment, exhibit spaces, materials, and supplies.

Whether starting in 11th or 12th grade, the initial sessions of the program start the same, with faculty and the student meeting to determine the student's goals, aspirations, and what they want to create through the program.



There is a collaborative arts environment at CA, where peers and teachers who appreciate and participate in the visual and performing arts learn and grow with each other. Opportunities and interactions include collaboration and appreciation among art students and faculty with students, conversations with visiting artists, exposure to inspiring work exhibited on campus by local artists, trips to museums and art galleries, and much more.

### **From CA to College**

The Art Major program has produced impressive results. In recent years, alumni have gone on to attend prestigious art and design schools in the U.S., including the **Carnegie Mellon School of Architecture, Maryland Institute College of Art, New York University, Parsons School of Design, Pratt Institute, Rhode Island School of Design, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and Wesleyan University.**

