

WESTONKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

fine arts



# art in westonka



Art education in Westonka Schools is a core discipline, essential to the growth and development of all students.

## Overview

Westonka's art instruction is based on the National Core Arts Standards, the Eight Studio Habits of Mind and the Minnesota Academic Standards in the Arts. The sequential art curriculum for grades K-12 focuses on four domains:

1. Create
2. Present
3. Respond
4. Connect

The curriculum is designed to develop content knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- Recognition of the role and importance of art and artists in society, culture and history
- Critical assessment of artworks from aesthetic and cultural perspectives
- Creative problem solving
- Technical processes
- Personal expression through art production

## Art education in the 21st century

Through 21st century learning, the Westonka School District is committed to offering high quality programs that maximize every student's abilities and interests. Westonka Schools has a rich history and tradition of excellent K-12 art education. At each level, emphasis is placed on critical thinking in the analysis of art making, in discussion and appreciation of art history and contemporary work and in critique.

Art classes allow students to personalize their learning experience through projects that utilize traditional materials as well as 21st century technologies to innovate, communicate and synthesize their ideas. Students are also asked to take risks with their work through medium exploration and concept development.

# elementary art

“In art class you can express yourself, and it makes you feel good about yourself and have more confidence.”

–Kylie, third-grader at Hilltop Primary School

## Elementary art

Students at Hilltop and Shirley Hills primary schools explore a variety of media, including 2D and 3D artwork, in their art classes. Visiting the Minneapolis Institute of Art is also an integral part of the elementary art program where students learn about and see the artwork of famous and influential artists.

In recent years, Hilltop has welcomed a variety of visiting artists, including an award-winning painter, commercial photographer, puppet and mask sculptor, and even a live owl for observational drawing. The district is also committed to displaying student artwork in a variety of settings - from local events, such as Imagination Celebration and Fine Arts Nights that combine music and visual art at the Westonka Performing Arts Center, to state-wide exhibitions like the Youth Art Month competition at the State Capitol.

The concepts and techniques taught at the primary level are matched to state academic standards, but individual projects change from year to year to accommodate student interests, changing art trends and individual student needs. Highlights of elementary art include clay, fiber arts, drawing, collaborative group work, painting, pastels, mixed-media and media arts.

## Art in motion

In line with the goals of the Westonka Edge21 Technology Plan, Westonka’s art teachers are finding new and innovative ways to integrate technology in their classrooms. At the primary level, students create stop motion film projects that blend traditional art techniques and 21st century technology.

Students—who each have an iPad to use during the school day—work together in small groups using the iMotion HD app to plan, build sets for, create and edit stop motion animation films. Scan the QR code on the right to view the students’ art in motion.



# secondary art



“In my senior year, I took my first high school art class. I quickly learned how to challenge my comfort zone by thinking outside the box, and now that is the mindset I use in design every day.”

—Matthew Colianni, MWHS class of 2007

B.S. in environmental design, M.A. in architecture, North Dakota State University

## Middle school art

At Grandview Middle School, students continue to build on the foundations of art. Major areas of study include ceramics, portraiture, painting and drawing. In addition, students focus on planning, designing, feedback and reflection as part of the artistic process. Each grade level (grades 5-7) follows a different curriculum that includes the study of art styles and movements, known artists and techniques from around the globe.

## High school art

Students at Mound Westonka High School take introductory art and drawing classes that build on skills taught at the elementary and middle school levels. The introductory classes allow students to continue in their 2D or 3D course options:

- Drawing I-IV
- Painting I-III
- Advanced Placement Drawing & Painting
- Advanced Placement 3D Studio Art
- Photography
- Advanced Photography
- Ceramics I-IV

## Advanced & AP Art

In seventh grade, Grandview offers an Advanced Art class that encourages students to create more personal art while they explore advanced techniques and mediums, including a final book arts project. In this class, students study the ways in which artists develop ideas and how art history influences the art that is created today. At the high school, students have the opportunity to earn college credit in Advanced Placement art courses.



# careers in the arts

## Creativity in the workforce

The arts develop a globally competitive workforce. As more analytical and technical jobs are being outsourced to other countries, it is important to develop creativity in children to keep them on the cutting edge of innovation. We live in a visual age in which kids are looking at screens for many hours a day. Visual literacy will help students navigate images in the 21st century.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more workers will be needed in the next decade to meet the growing demand for animation and visual effects in video games, movies, television, and on smartphones, as well as to help create visually appealing and effective layouts of websites and other media platforms.

### Art & Design Occupation/Salaries

Occupation	Entry-Level Education	2020 Median Pay
Art Directors	Bachelor's degree	\$97,270
Craft and Fine Artists	High school diploma	\$49,120
Fashion Designers	Bachelor's degree	\$75,810
Floral Designers	High school diploma	\$29,140
Graphic Designers	Bachelor's degree	\$53,380
Industrial Designers	Bachelor's degree	\$71,640
Interior Designers	Bachelor's degree	\$57,060
Special Effects Artists & Animators	Bachelor's degree	\$77,700

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



www.studentartguide.com  
Careers for Art Students

# careers in the arts

## Leading the way to a career in the fine arts

Mound Westonka High School graduates are pursuing a variety of art degrees and careers.

### Matt Colianni '07, project designer

Colianni has assisted in technical documentation and concept imagery for many exciting projects:

- U.S. Bank Stadium (Minnesota Vikings)
- Target Field (Minnesota Twins)
- Northwestern Lake Frest Hospital
- Bachelor Farmer/Askov Finlayson/Marvel Bar
- Washburn Center for Children
- Ridgedale Center
- Augsburg College
- Carleton College
- University of Dubuque
- Columbia College
- St. John's University
- Shattuck St Mary's

Colianni's collegiate accomplishments include:

- Peter F. McKenzie Finalist for Most Outstanding Master's Thesis
- Graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2011
- Freedom by Design Member in Fargo, N.D.
- Guest Lecturer and Teacher's Assistant at NDSU
- Dean's List (seven consecutive semesters)
- RHA Executive Member and Scholarship recipient



# careers in the arts

## **Victoria Nelson '15, B.F.A. in illustration, School of the Art Institute of Chicago**

“I would not have made it to where I am today without the help of the Westonka Fine Arts Department,” said Nelson. She participated in the Scholastic Art Awards, earning an Honorable Mention for both her portfolio and solo piece. Nelson is a recipient of a Merit Scholarship from SAIC.

## **Carly Koch '14, B.F.A. in drawing and painting, Minneapolis College of Art and Design**

“The MWHS art program helped me to discover and develop skills and gave me the confidence and encouragement I needed to pursue a career in art” Koch said.

Her specialty is hyperrealism. “I take great pride in my attention to detail. Details such as creating the sparkle of eye shadow, a blemish or mole, wrinkles in knuckles and each individual strand of hair are challenging, but very rewarding,” Koch said. “The more I focus on the object, the more detail I see, and those details must go into the drawing for me to be satisfied. By including so many objects that seem to dazzle and twinkle in the light, it allows the viewers to slow down and get lost in my meticulous details. I want to create a speechless reaction in my work.”

- 2014 – Drawing of “The Great Northern Loon” was featured in Jinxi Caddel’s “Feathers of Inspiration,” [The Bird Art Project](#)
- 2014-2015 – Dean’s List, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 2015 – Drawing of “The Great Northern Loon” was featured in Sparks of Creativity, Book Project A
- 2015 – Freshman portfolio submission won Foundation Merit Scholarship, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- 2015 – Donation: Framed Print- E18, Mound Fire Station



# art awards



## Award-winning art program

Westonka artists earn state, local and national awards every year.

**Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards** - MWHS artists regularly earn Scholastic Art Awards, including Gold Key and Silver Key awards.

**3rd Congressional District High School Art Competition** - MWHS art students are selected to exhibit their artwork in the Congressional Art Competition. MWHS alumna Carly Koch was the Grand Prize winner in 2014 and won a trip to Washington, D.C.

**Minnesota State High School League Section II Visual Arts Festival** - Each year, MWHS artists take home Excellent and Superior ratings from the Section Visual Arts festival.

**Youth Art Month Student Exhibition, sponsored by Art Educators of Minnesota** - Student artworks are submitted each year to the statewide Youth Art Month competition. This contest recognizes and promotes the achievements of student artists across the state. Westonka students' art is regularly displayed through this program at the Minnesota State Capitol and at the Westonka Performing Arts Center.

**Spirit of the Lakes Festival Art Contest** - MWHS students have won this local art contest each year since 2016.

## Art on display

Parents can view their student's work in online art galleries and order custom gifts via Artsonia.com. The Shirley Hills and Hilltop online galleries are both ranked in the Top 5 in Minnesota for overall participation.

Student artwork is also put on display at the Shirley Hills Spring Carnival, the Hilltop Imagination Celebration and the Grandview Art Show. MWHS student work is shared through district social media. Each school also has their own galleries to display student artwork in the hallways.

# why art?

“While students in art classes learn techniques specific to art, such as how to draw, how to mix paint or how to center a pot, they’re also taught a remarkable array of mental habits not emphasized elsewhere in schools.”

—Lois Hetland and Ellen Winner of Harvard’s Project Zero

## Art teaches children...

- to see multiple perspectives and many ways to interpret the world
- to surrender to unanticipated possibilities as work unfolds
- to think through and within a medium
- to communicate through visual language
- to discover a range and variety of what we are capable of feeling
- to interpret visual messages
- that problems can have more than one solution
- that the limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognitions
- that small differences can have large effects

## Creative problem-solving

Art is essential to education in the 21st century. Art class nurtures engaged learners by promoting active and complex learning. In elementary art classes, students explore a large variety of mediums. Each material provides students with unique challenges, which allows students to discover new solutions. With each creative solution, students learn a new form of expression and communication. Students learn to be flexible when challenges arrive and to not fear mistakes—mistakes create opportunities to find better solutions.

## Personal expression

Not only do art students learn concepts and techniques, they learn about themselves. Art class is a safe place for students to explore their own thoughts and personalities. In art class, there is not always one right answer, which teaches students to deal with ambiguity and to form their own opinions and ideas. The arts marry technical skills, emotional intelligence and aesthetic purpose.



# contact us

## Contact us

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Follow our success in and out of the classroom:

- #WestonkArts (K-12 fine arts news)
- #MWHSart (MWHS art news)
- #Cabinet53 (AP Drawing news)
- #mwhsFstops (photography news)
- #mwhsSTEAMeD (STEAM Integrated Physics news)

