

FINE ARTS

AT

PORTSMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Mission & Philosophy

Honoring God joyfully

PCA's mission is to maximize each child's God-given potential. In the Fine Arts department, our goal is to cultivate artists of excellent craft and character who reflect God's image through joyful creative expression. PCA has developed its fine arts curriculum to best meet the needs of students seeking to pursue further study at the college level. Our program combines up to eight visual arts courses with offerings in music and theatre to create a diversified program that welcomes all types of interests.

What we attempt to do is give students the skills to prosper, life-long, in the arts. We do this on canvases, stages, and in the classroom. The arts are core to our humanity, and, when you develop those skills, you're really developing the whole person. Students can discover their interests in drawing, painting, photography, acting, singing, instruments, and more. Developing the student's sense of creativity increases their ability to effectively articulate their perspective, and ultimately strengthens their ability to impact the world for good.



Tiffany Schifano
Fine Arts Director





Music

PCA actively cultivates the skills necessary for excellent musicianship. Music is not for a select few, but is accessible to each student as a foundation to his or her education. Musicians improve and progress as they move through the PCA program. Musical skills are enhanced and developed in every class period and at every rehearsal. Advanced musicians at PCA have been selected for All-State ensembles and participate in other state-wide music festivals as well.

Excellence is pursued at all levels as students seek to understand the relationship between their faith and the arts. Musical participation is cooperative as we all seek to encourage those around us, while striving for the best in every rehearsal. Students at every level are encouraged to create music individually and as a group. Joy characterizes our music classes!

PCA is one of few schools in the Seacoast to offer an orchestra at the Upper School level. Chorus, jazz band, and worship team are other opportunities Upper School students enjoy. Music is not required at our Upper School, but 20% of our Upper School students choose to participate in music ensembles. Advanced high school instrumentalists play alongside professional musicians in the pit orchestra for our spring musical.



Preschool & Primary

Making music is part of what makes us human. We sing lullabies to our kids, Happy Birthday to friends, and worship songs in church. To do so with confidence starts with a solid musical foundation. The focus of music in our preschool and primary classes begins with being tuneful, beatful, and artful – learning to sing in tune, with a steady beat, and in a musically expressive way.



Elementary & Middle School

Fourth grade is a banner year in music when students choose to be in one of three ensembles: choir, band, or orchestra. Jazz band becomes an option at the middle school level, where students explore music in jazz, rock and pop styles and are taught to improvise on their instruments.



Upper School & Beyond

Our Upper School currently offers three ensembles. Each receives regional recognition in the form of department-wide awards and individual All-State nominations. From vocal performances at local community events to underscoring a silent movie, our students are given opportunities to take their talents on stage and the instruction needed to take their talents off to college.



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“PCA is big enough where it’s easy to find other people who share your interests. At the same time, the teachers are here because they want to know YOU. What makes PCA such a great place is that the teachers love us all so much.”

Cort Baussmann ‘22
Berklee College of Music





 **Berklee**
College of Music



Visual Art

The Visual Arts program at Portsmouth Christian Academy integrates the study of aesthetics, art criticism, art history, and art production. Students engage in making art, viewing and discussing art, reading and writing about art, learning about the context in which art has been created, and pondering fundamental questions about art.

Making art is central in the education of all students. In the early grades, art-making is a primary vehicle through which children can most fluently tell stories, relate experiences, imagine, convey messages, express feelings and give ideas concrete form. But at any age or level of sophistication, making art involves a complex and integrative process through which students learn to observe, recall, find relationships, make choices, accept or reject alternatives, respond, value, and make decisions. In the Upper School art courses, students engage these concepts at a deeper level and apply them to a more skill-based curriculum including observational drawing, photography, printmaking, painting, ceramics, and design.

At PCA, perhaps the most important aspect of the art curriculum is the process it takes to get there. Problem solving, creative thinking and personal expression are skills that art education develops and that will serve each student long after the work is done.



Preschool & Primary

Our youngest students dabble with delight as they explore various art mediums, exercise their creativity and express their heart through their art. Drawing, painting, printmaking, weaving and ceramics are enjoyed while learning about line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space. Children are inspired by famous artists and multi-cultural art forms.



Elementary & Middle School

At the Middle School level, students are able to explore a wide variety of different media including colored pencils, paint, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and more. Artists are explored in the various contexts of each project. Students have opportunities to respond to seasoned artist's artwork and learn about the elements of art and principles of design that are incorporated into the projects.



Upper School & Beyond

At the Upper School level, students are able to focus on specific forms of art in which they find interest, choosing from courses like Drawing, Painting, Photography, Studio Art, Ceramics, and Sculpture. Techniques and methods are explored using the mediums related to the specific form of art. We explore influential and historical artists and learn how to create different styles of art.





Theatre

Opportunities in theatre abound at PCA. Students in grades 4-12 can audition for parts in the Fall and Spring productions, or can opt to join the backstage crew as a technical assistant or stage-hand. The Upper School Theatre program puts on several shows throughout the academic year, including a Fall theatre show, a Spring Musical, and the One Act Play Competition between local high school theatre programs across the Seacoast. Our shows have received regional recognition for acting, set design, costumes, and technical production.



Emily Komerska '21

4-Year Spring Musical Cast Member
Theatre Minor, University of New Hampshire



Elementary

Class presentations and the annual speech meet provide opportunities to develop communications skills at a young age within the context of student's homerooms. Once students reach 4th grade, they are eligible to participate in our after-school theatre program.



Fall Theatre Shows

In our fall show, students perform a variety of one act plays: one for 4th and 5th grades, one for Middle School, and one for Upper School students. This allows for plenty of opportunities for all students to grow in their audition, movement, and presentation skills. High school students take a performance to the NH Educational Theater Guild's statewide one act drama competition.



Spring Musical

Our big event of the year is our spring musical, open to students in grades 6-12. Our shows are professional level productions that beautifully integrate story, song, and dance. A live pit orchestra accompanies the show and consists of PCA instrumentalists who play alongside professional musicians from the community. Recent shows include, Newsies, The Music Man and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.





PORTSMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

READY TO JOIN OUR COMMUNITY?
CONTACT OUR ADMISSIONS OFFICE TODAY!

20 Seaborne Drive | Dover, New Hampshire 03820

603-742-3617

pcaschool.org

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