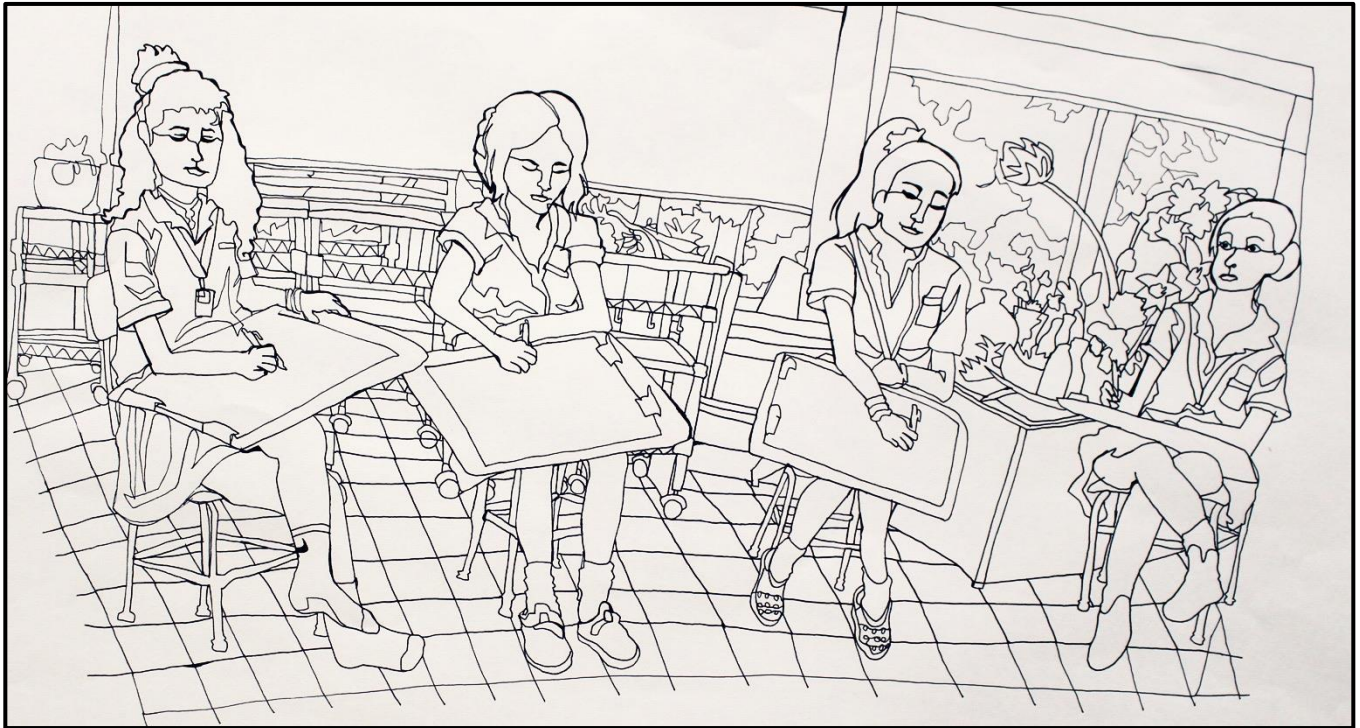


Welcome to the Mercy High School Art Department



Drawing by Frances Pepiot Posch, Class of 2020

Mission Statement

We, the students and staff of the Mercy High School Art Department, participate in God's creation through our daily work in the visual arts. We value the gifts of our lives and talents. We observe, appreciate, depict and interpret nature and our surroundings. We hope to offer an extraordinary view of our everyday world to all who view our artwork. We value our community of artists, learning from one another and dedicating ourselves to do our best.

Art Department Facts

- 276 students enrolled in 22 sections
 - 13:1 student-teacher ratio
- 2 teachers with a combined 30+ years of experience
 - 4 studio classrooms and 2 computer labs
- 24 individual looms and 2 floor looms for the Fibers class
 - Drawing and painting studios with easels and a variety of still-life objects
 - A ceramics studio equipped with 11 potter's wheels, a slab roller, and a clay extruder
- Four ceramics kilns with high fire capacity and a jewelry kiln in a separate room for safety/venting purposes
 - A jewelry studio with acetylene/oxygen jeweler's torches, drills, and a variety of metal working tools
 - Two labs with 42 computers and the Adobe Creative Suite and Final Cut Pro

While the art curriculum provides a program designed for the college-bound art major, it also remains flexible to meet the elective needs of all students. Most classes are open to 9-12th grades. All classes are semester classes except AP Art classes. Classes focus on studio art production. Lessons in art history, art criticism, aesthetics, art careers, studio etiquette, and technology are also integrated. Mercy High School honors the State of Michigan requirement of two semesters of visual, performing, or applied art classes. The classes below fulfill that graduation requirement.

ART CLASSES WITH NO PREREQUISITE

The following classes have no prerequisites and may be elected 9th - 12th grades.

Drawing

Students in Drawing acquire knowledge and perceptual skills to draw objects realistically. They learn to transfer three-dimensional objects to a two-dimensional picture plane. Basic concepts of drawing such as line, negative space, proportion, perspective, and value are covered. A variety of subjects are drawn in pencil, color pencil, oil pastel, and ink including landscapes, portraits, and still-life. This course is considered foundational for all of the arts and is critical for any student pursuing art in college. *(one semester)*

Course fee: \$80

Ceramics

Students learn basic hand forming techniques and three-dimensional design. Possibilities for both functional and non-functional clay pieces are explored by working with pinch, coil, slab, and a combination of these methods. *(one semester)*

Course fee: \$80

Fibers

Fibers class is an introduction to three-dimensional design as it relates to any material that can be stitched, woven, or dyed. Possibilities for both functional and non-functional pieces are explored. Fabric dyeing, on-loom weaving, and off-loom weaving such as felting and basketry are some of the techniques covered. Crochet, knitting, and sewing are also possibilities. *(one semester)*

Course fee: \$80

Jewelry

Jewelry is an introduction to three-dimensional design and metalworking techniques. Techniques include piercing, sawing, soldering, riveting, and stone setting. Possible pieces include rings, pendants, and bracelets. *(one semester)*

Course fee: \$80

Sculpture

Students in Sculpture learn basic techniques to create both relief sculptures and sculptures in the round. The study of form, shape, and space will be emphasized as students use materials as varied as clay, plaster, foam board, fiber, and paper. The practice of mold making is also covered. *(one semester)*

This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2024-2025 and 2026-2027.

Course fee: \$80

Printmaking

Printmaking is an introduction to two-dimensional design and various printmaking techniques. Printmaking is a process that typically allows artists to create multiples of their original art. This class introduces a range of printmaking methods including block printing and dry-point etching. Collagraphs, monoprint, and screen-printing are also possibilities to be explored. Concepts of drawing, design, color, layering, mark making, and space are emphasized. *(one semester)*

This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2023-2024 and 2025-2026.

Course fee: \$80

Digital Graphics

Visual communication and composition in digital mediums will be explored through the study of art created for commercial creative fields and other practical purposes. This course will provide students with working knowledge of Adobe Illustrator to create vector-based graphics, imaging techniques in Photoshop, and page layout techniques in Adobe InDesign. Possible projects include logos, letterhead, business cards, greeting cards, book layouts, illustrations, signage, digital collages, and digital paintings. *(one semester)*

This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2023-2024 and 2025-2026.

Course fee: \$15

Film and Animation

Students will explore composition and camera use for video and will learn editing skills in Final Cut Pro. The mechanics of using a single-lens reflex camera will be explored. The art department has several cameras for this purpose so no camera purchase is necessary for this class. Student mobile device cameras will also be employed. Various animation projects will be explored using drawing, photography, and clay modeling techniques. Animation Creator and stop motion applications are also used. *(one semester)*

This class is offered every other school year. It will be offered in 2024-2025 and 2026-2027.

Course fee: \$25

Photography

Students will practice composition and camera use for digital photography. The mechanics of using a single-lens reflex camera will be explored. The art department has several cameras for this purpose, so no camera purchase is necessary for this class. Student mobile device cameras will also be employed. Multiple editing skills in Adobe Photoshop will be covered. Creative framing, lighting and color adjustments, and photomontage techniques are some of the topics explored. *(one semester)*

Course fee: \$25

ART CLASSES WITH PREREQUISITES

The following classes have prerequisites and are generally elected 10 - 12th grade.

Painting

Students in Painting further their knowledge and skill in art through various painting techniques. Students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Drawing. Subject matter includes still-life, people, and landscapes. Materials include acrylic and watercolor paint. *(one semester)*

Prerequisite: Drawing, Course fee: \$120

Intermediate Painting

In Intermediate Painting, students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Drawing and Painting. They further develop their design skills, color theory knowledge, realistic drawing skills, and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in homework pieces. Subject matter includes still-life, architecture, landscape, and portraiture. Materials include acrylic, water-soluble oil, and watercolor paint. *(one semester)*

Prerequisites: Drawing and Painting

Course fee: \$120

Intermediate Drawing

In Intermediate Drawing, students study the human skeletal structure to draw portraits and the human figure in proportion. Students build upon the basic skills acquired in the first semester of Drawing. Materials include pencil, charcoal, ink, and pastel. This course is of great value to any student who may consider a major in art. The students further develop their design skills and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in homework pieces. *(one semester)*

Prerequisite: Drawing

Course fee: \$80

Intermediate Ceramics

Studio work in Intermediate Ceramics focuses on improving technique and skill level. Projects include the use of the potter's wheel, press molds, slabs, and coils to further students' knowledge of the ceramic medium and the principles of three-dimensional design. Advanced surface design methods will also be explored. Students may learn how to load and fire kilns and are expected to recycle clay. Projects incorporate both functional and sculptural clay work. *(one semester)*

Prerequisite: Ceramics

Course fee: 580

Intermediate Fibers

In Intermediate Fibers, students continue to build upon the skills acquired in Fibers. They further develop their design skills, eye hand coordination, use of tools such as looms, and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in individual pieces. Projects may be made from any material that can be stitched, woven, or dyed. Possibilities for both functional and non-functional pieces are explored. *(one semester)*

Prerequisites: Fibers

Course fee: \$80

Intermediate Jewelry

Students in Intermediate Jewelry use basic techniques in new ways and explore advanced jewelry-making and metalworking techniques such as advanced stone settings, precious metal clay, forging, doming, and hollow form construction. The students further develop their design skills and work towards a more individualized and expressive direction in their jewelry making. *(one semester)*

Prerequisite: Jewelry

Course fee: \$80

AP 2-D Art and Design

AP 2-D Art and Design is a year-long, advanced-level course for sophomores, juniors, and seniors that is designed to provide students with an academic experience similar to that of a college-level 2-D design course. Students practice and develop the skills of investigation, experimentation, and communication while they create a portfolio submitted to a panel of jurors for an AP score. *(year)*

Prerequisite: At least one 2-D Mercy art class (Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, Digital Graphics). More than one semester of art is encouraged prior to this class. Please discuss options with the art faculty.

Course fee: Determined by the supply needs of each student

AP 3-D Art and Design

AP 3-D Art and Design is a year-long, advanced-level course for sophomores, juniors, and seniors that is designed to provide students with an academic experience similar to that of a college-level 3-D design course. Students practice and develop the skills of investigation, experimentation, and communication while they create a portfolio submitted to a panel of jurors for an AP score. *(year)*

Prerequisite: At least one 3-D Mercy art class (Ceramics, Fibers, Jewelry, Sculpture). More than one semester of art is encouraged prior to this class. Please discuss options with the art faculty.

Course fee: Determined by the supply needs of each student

AP Drawing

AP Drawing is a year-long, advanced-level course for sophomores, juniors, and seniors that is designed to provide students with an academic experience similar to that of a college-level drawing course. Students practice and develop the skills of investigation, experimentation, and communication while they create a portfolio submitted to a panel of jurors for an AP score. *(year)*

Prerequisite: At least one Mercy drawing class. More than one semester of art is encouraged prior to this class. Please discuss options with the art faculty.

Course fee: Determined by the supply needs of each student

**PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION, COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP,
AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT ART AND DESIGN EXAMS**

A student who applies to a college art program may need to submit a portfolio of her high school art during the admissions process. The student will absolutely need a portfolio to be considered for art merit scholarships and advanced placement opportunities. Portfolio size requirements vary from five to thirty pieces, depending on the situation.

The student will begin a portfolio in her first Mercy art class. The proper procedure for photographing and editing photos of fine art is demonstrated. A student is expected to photograph her best artwork from each class, edit the files in Photoshop, archive the files, and post art to her digital portfolio each semester.

Art faculty provide guidance for portfolio development. **It is imperative, however, that a student map her four-year curriculum in the art department to allow time to develop as a student artist and to create the volume of work needed for a quality portfolio.** The chart below shows the recommended course selections for a portfolio student. The art faculty will also advise students according to possible college majors. For example, a student interested in Fashion Design should minimally take Drawing, Intermediate Drawing, Fibers, Painting, and Sculpture. A student interested in Architecture, Interior Design, or Product Design should take Drawing, Intermediate Drawing, and several three-dimensional classes.

Strong portfolios contain the following components:

1. Pieces that showcase craftsmanship and that show students have experienced a variety of subjects, design topics, and media. This includes pieces that show an understanding of the elements of art (line, shape, form, space, color, and texture) and the principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, repetition, proportion, rhythm, variety, and unity). This also includes the ability to draw from life. The College Board calls these pieces “selected works” and asks that five be submitted for the Advanced Placement Art and Design exam.
2. Pieces that show the development of a compositional theme in both concept and media. The College Board calls these pieces “sustained investigation” and asks that fifteen be submitted for the Advanced Placement Art and Design exam. Creating sustained investigation pieces requires a large time commitment on the part of the student.

RECOMMENDED TRACK FOR COLLEGE-BOUND, SCHOLARSHIP, AND A.P. ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS

9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
Drawing	Intermediate Drawing	Painting and/or Printmaking	AP Art and Design
3-D class (Jewelry, Ceramics, Fibers, or Sculpture)	Another 3-D class (Jewelry, Ceramics, Fibers, or Sculpture)	Another 3-D class (Jewelry, Ceramics, Fibers, or Sculpture)	Another 3-D class (Jewelry, Ceramics, Fibers, or Sculpture)
		Digital art class (Photography, Film and Animation, Digital Graphics)	Another digital art class (Photography, Film and Animation, Digital Graphics)

Extra classes during summer and evenings at community art centers are recommended for the scholarship and A.P. bound students. Such classes can supplement a portfolio, but should not be considered a viable substitute for Mercy art classes. Please consult the art faculty for advice regarding reputable programs. **If you have questions, please contact, Ms. Susan Smith, Art Department Chairperson, at smsmith@mhsmi.org.**

Grade	Period	Fall	Spring
12	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	Economics	Elective
	6	Elective	Elective
	7	Elective	Elective
11	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	American History	American History
	6	Elective	Elective
	7	Elective	Elective
10	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	Government	Health
	6	World Language	World Language
	7	Elective	Elective
9	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Speech
	4	World History	World History
	5	Elective	Physical Education / Swim
	6	World Language	World Language
	7	Visual, Performing or Applied Art	Visual, Performing or Applied Art

- Plan your elective curriculum in consultation with Mercy’s Counseling staff and Mercy’s Course Planning Guide.
- The chart above aims to give students and parents a guide for making elective choices within the context of Mercy’s graduation requirements.
- State and Mercy requirements are in black type. Elective opportunities are in red.
- Classes which may be placed at any grade level are in green type.
- Biology is often taken during the 9th grade.
- Taking Biology in the 9th grade sometimes means postponing art until sophomore year.

Grade	Period	Fall	Spring
12	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	Economics	Art Elective
	6	3-D art class	Digital art class
	7	AP Art and Design	AP Art and Design
11	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	American History	American History
	6	Intermediate Level Art	Intermediate Level Art
	7	3-D art class	Digital art class
10	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Religion
	4	Lab Science	Lab Science
	5	Government	Health
	6	World Language	World Language
	7	Intermediate Drawing	Painting
9	1	English	English
	2	Math	Math
	3	Religion	Speech
	4	World History	World History
	5	Art Elective	Physical Education / Swim
	6	World Language	World Language
	7	Drawing (VPA credit)	3-D Art Class (VPA credit)

- Plan your elective curriculum in consultation with Mercy’s Counseling staff and Mercy’s Course Planning Guide.
- The chart above shows a serious portfolio student’s path within the context of the Mercy graduation requirements.
- State and Mercy requirements are in black type. Elective opportunities are in red.
- Classes which may be placed at any grade level are in green type.