



NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

create learn thrive

Countless studies have shown that kids who are exposed to artistic study develop habits and skills that are critical for success in high school, college, and beyond. And yet, very few public schools are prioritizing artistic programming. Despite the known fact that creativity fuels learning, the majority of students in NYC middle schools do not get to learn an instrument, participate in a musical, or take a comprehensive visual arts class. At City School of the Arts, our common core-aligned academic curriculum is enhanced by its connections to the arts, and our artistic program allows students to study piano and visual art, as well as a variety of electives, or "Ensemble" classes.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

There are four academic departments at City School of the Arts: Humanities, Math, Science, and Special Education. In 6th and 7th Grade Humanities, English and History are combined into a double-block. In 8th Grade, students have separate English and History classes to prepare them for the demands of high school. Additionally, all students have two to three classes of Guided Reading a week. Guided Reading is a block of small group instruction in which students work through a text on their Lexile level with a small group of their peers. In 6th Grade Humanities, students are introduced to the rise and fall of civilizations, empire development, political systems, and world religions. In 7th Grade Humanities, students

engage in Indigenous American and African tribal histories, European exploration and colonization, the American Revolution, and the U.S. Constitution and government. In 8th Grade English, students read seven American novels and some short stories, with a strong focus on developing critical analysis skills. In 8th Grade History, students deepen their understanding of citizenship, nationalism, progress, global responsibility, and the American Dream.



In 6th Grade Math, students build on their elementary school skills and begin learning ratios and proportions, arithmetic operations, rational numbers, expressions and equations, area and volume, and basic statistics. In 7th Grade, students engage in pre-algebra and learn about proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions and linear equations, problem-solving with scale drawings, geometric constructions, and two/three-dimensional shapes. In 8th Grade, students deepen their understanding of algebra, logical thinking and problem-solving skills, and functions and geometric applications. Many 8th graders opt to sit for the Integrated Algebra Regents exam.

Every CSA 8th Grader prepares for the Living Environment regents exam and sits for it at the end of the year. In 8th Grade Science (Living Environment), students learn about biology fundamentals; specifically, students learn about cells, reproduction, population dynamics, evolution, human anatomy, and human impacts on the environment. In 6th and 7th Grade, students are introduced to biological concepts and delve deep into the physical science. In 6th Grade, students are introduced to the scientific method, explore energy, the structure and properties of matter, water and weather while conducting many controlled experiments. They apply critical thinking, scientific writing, and statistical math skills as they learn how to analyze data. In 7th Grade, students continue to discover scientific concepts through and further their exploration of energy as they learn about waves and electricity and electromagnetism. Besides studying Earth Science, in order to prepare for 8th Grade they begin to explore what living organisms have in common.





ARTISTIC PROGRAM

Each grade level has a Core Arts course three times a week; Piano in 6th Grade, Visual Art in the 7th Grade, and Creative Connections (an interdisciplinary course) in the 8th Grade. Additionally, 6th and 7th Grade students select an elective ("Ensemble") course, building up to 8th Grade when students select an Artistic Major. Ensembles and Majors include: Piano, Percussion, Music Tech, Strings, Vocal Music, Studio Art, Digital Art, Dance, Theater, and Creative Writing.

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CAMP CSA

Camp is embedded in the very DNA of our school. This twice-a-year, required outdoor educational experience allows students and staff to bond over shared adventures at Club Getaway in Kent, CT. We believe camp reinforces the courage and vulnerability required by artists to create and thrive. In a world that avoids discomfort, camp encourages us to courageously face wilderness, new challenges, and unplugging from our devices. Our adventures include braving the zip-line, puzzling through team building, eating our meals intentionally, and much more, proving to ourselves anything is possible. Sunshine, green, campfire, and simplicity; that is Camp CSA.

WE ARE DEDICATED...

to supporting all types of learners. Our primary model for serving students with unique learning needs is Integrated Co-Teachings (ICT), which means there is one classroom with two teachers in each grade level. The best ICT classrooms make it hard to tell who the General Education Teacher or Special Education Teacher is because they work in concert to meet the needs of all students in the room. We also work closely with the Committee on Special Education and outside agencies to secure high quality related service providers for students needing Speech and Language Therapy, Physical or Occupational Therapy, and the individual support of paraprofessionals. Our Student Support Team also consists of Learning Specialists and two social workers who also work with our team to ensure academic growth for all students.



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