



HOLY INNOCENTS'  
E P I S C O P A L S C H O O L

2021 - 2022 Middle School

Fine Arts Course Descriptions

## **HIES Middle School Art**

### **8th Grade Art**

#### ***Grade 8: Year Long Course***

This year-long art elective is focused on student choice and student voice. Students will work as artists through authentic learning opportunities and responsive teaching. During this course, students will focus on the eight studio habits of mind (SHoM): envision, develop craft, observe, engage and persist, stretch and explore, express, reflect, and understand the art world. Students will practice coming up with art problems to solve, asking questions and seeing possibilities in the world around them. Students will learn to persevere through difficulties as well as to trust themselves and their own judgment while simultaneously becoming self-directed and organized.

### **Honors 8th Grade Art**

#### ***Grade 8: Year Long Course***

8th Grade Honors Art is for the serious art student who shows a strong understanding of the elements of art and principles of design, and who has the artistic talent and fortitude to pursue the completion of projects on a relatively fast paced timeline. Students applying for this course should expect to spend a minimum of 2 hours a week outside of class in order to research, plan, and execute their concepts throughout the year. There will also be weekly sketchbook assignments. Through experimentation and refinement, each student will create a body of work that includes observational drawing, mixed media and a variety of self-chosen media and techniques. The studio environment of the class will be used to support inspiration, reflection, creation, and sharing of art.

***Prerequisite:*** Must apply to the course with samples of art and artist statement. Applications will be reviewed by Upper School art teachers who will determine admission.

## **HIES Middle School Theatre**

### **Honors Stagecraft/Advanced Acting**

#### ***Grade 8: Year Long Course***

Students will learn technical aspects of theatre including design, carpentry, and painting skills as well as taking a deeper dive into acting utilizing various acting techniques.

***Prerequisite:*** Must audition with a choice of monologue provided on student and parent pages. This audition will also include an interview.

## **HIES Middle School Orchestra**

The Holy Innocents' Orchestra program exists to foster an appreciation for music through performance. Students will be placed by audition/evaluation into one of the three ensemble groups.

### **Beginning Orchestra**

#### ***Grades 6th, 7th & 8th: Year Long Course***

Beginning Orchestra students are introduced to technique and the fundamentals of the four orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students will be prepared to join the Concert Orchestra after a year of

beginning level classes. Beginning Orchestra students will present an in-school holiday performance during the week of finals in December and will also join Concert Orchestra for several pieces on the final spring concert.

***Prerequisites: None***

## **Concert Orchestra**

***Grades 6th, 7th & 8th: Year Long Course***

The MS Concert Orchestra is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with at least one year of experience on a string instrument. Concert Orchestra presents two concerts and may participate in Large Group Performance Evaluation. Students are encouraged to participate in GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival and in Chapel Ensemble.

***Prerequisites: One year on string instrument and placement audition***

## **Symphonic Orchestra**

***Grades 6th, 7th & 8th: Year Long Course***

The MS Symphonic Orchestra is open to more advanced 6th, 7th, and 8th grade string students who are comfortable with key signatures up to three sharps/two flats and are ready to start shifting. Symphonic Orchestra presents two concerts during the year and may participate in GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation or a similar festival. Students are encouraged to participate in GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival and in Chapel Ensemble. Highly advanced students will perform in a “pull-out” Chamber Ensemble and have the opportunity to perform with the Upper School Orchestra. ***Prerequisites: Placement audition***

## **Honors Symphonic Orchestra**

Symphonic Orchestra students have the option to deepen their musical studies by completing honors credit assignments in addition to the Symphonic Orchestra curriculum. Students must opt in at the beginning of the year and will be responsible for completing four assignments per term. Honors credit assignment options will include private lessons, participation in Solo & Ensemble, solo/duet performances in chapel, All-State Orchestra audition, GarageBand composition projects, composer research project, etc. ***Prerequisites: Placement audition***

## **HIES Middle School Band**

The Holy Innocents’ Band program is designed to foster a love for music through small and large group performance. Students will develop their individual performance technique while strengthening music literacy, practicing abilities, and general musicianship.

## **Concert Band**

***Grades 6th, 7th, 8th: Year Long Course***

The MS Concert Band is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students with beginning to intermediate experience. The course is designed to introduce students to large ensemble performance in a more recreational atmosphere. Concert Band presents at least two concerts and may participate in Large Group Performance Evaluation.

***Prerequisites: No prerequisites required. Beginners welcome!***

## **Symphonic Band**

### ***Grades 6th, 7th, 8th: Year Long Course***

The MS Symphonic Band is open to more advanced 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band students. Symphonic Band presents at least two concerts during the year and may participate in GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation or a similar festival. Students are encouraged to participate in GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival, District/All State Band auditions, and Chapel Ensemble. Highly advanced students will perform in chamber ensembles and have the opportunity to perform with the Upper School Band. ***Prerequisites: Placement audition***

## **Honors Symphonic Band**

Symphonic Band students have the option to deepen their musical studies by completing honors credit assignments in addition to the Symphonic Band curriculum. Students must opt in at the beginning of the year and will be responsible for completing four assignments per term. Honors credit assignment options will include private lessons, participation in Solo & Ensemble, recording projects, solo/duet performances in chapel, District/All-State band auditions, GarageBand composition projects, composer research project, etc. ***Prerequisites: Placement audition***

## **HIES Middle School Chorus**

### **6th Grade Girls Chorus**

#### ***Grade 6: Year Long Course***

Choral music at Holy Innocents' is designed to promote a love of singing and music, and is open to female students new to singing as well as those continuing chorus from earlier grades. Students will learn the basics of vocal production and technique, while incorporating the skills of sight-singing, music literacy and general musicianship. This is a performance-based class, with concerts presented in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Additional performances may be scheduled during the school day, which may include chapel and community events. Students will be given the opportunity to audition for the GMEA 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus.

### **6th Grade Boys Chorus**

#### ***Grade 6: Year Long Course***

Choral music at Holy Innocents' is designed to promote a love of singing and music, and is open to male students new to singing as well as those continuing chorus from earlier grades. Students will learn the basics of vocal production and technique specifically focusing on the male voice change, while incorporating the skills of sight-singing, music literacy and general musicianship. This is a performance-based class, with concerts presented in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Additional performances may be scheduled during the school day, which may include chapel and community events. Students will be given the opportunity to audition for the GMEA 6th Grade Statewide Honor Chorus.

## **Concert Chorus**

### ***Grades 7 & 8: Year Long Course***

Choral music at Holy Innocents' is designed to promote a love of singing and music, and is open to both female and male students. Students will learn the basics of vocal production and technique, while incorporating the skills of sight-singing, music literacy and general musicianship. The Crimson Chorus performs a variety of challenging and

engaging music by themselves and in combination with other choruses on campus. This is a performance-based class, with concerts presented in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Additional performances may be scheduled during the school day, which may include chapel and community events. Students will have the option to audition for the GMEA Allstate Choruses.

## **Chamber Chorus**

### ***Grades 7 & 8: Year Long Course***

Choral music at Holy Innocents' is designed to promote a love of singing and music, and is open to both female and male students by audition only. Students will learn the basics of vocal production and technique, while incorporating the skills of sight-singing, music literacy and general musicianship. The Gold Chorus performs a variety of challenging and engaging music by themselves and in combination with other choruses on campus. This is a performance-based class, with concerts presented in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Additional performances may be scheduled during the school day, which may include chapel and community events. Students will be encouraged to audition for the GMEA Allstate Choruses. ***Placement determined by audition.***

## **Honors Chamber Chorus**

### ***Grades 7 & 8: Year Long Course***

Choral music at Holy Innocents' is designed to promote a love of singing and music, and is open to both female and male students by audition only. Students will learn the basics of vocal production and technique, while incorporating the skills of sight-singing, music literacy and general musicianship. The Gold Chorus performs a variety of challenging and engaging music by themselves and in combination with other choruses on campus. This is a performance-based class, with concerts presented in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. Additional performances may be scheduled during the school day, which may include chapel and community events. Other honors options will include open mic night, small group performances, voice lessons, chapel performances, research projects, participation in the musical, etc. ***Placement determined by audition.***

## **HIES Middle School Music & Engineering**

### **Music Production and Engineering 1**

#### ***Grades 7 & 8: Year Long Course***

This course covers the fundamental concepts of music production, recording, and the use of equipment in live, studio, and mobile settings. Along the way, students learn how to capture sound from various live sources, as well as how to craft a sound from scratch using analog and virtual synthesizers. Students in Level 1 will work extensively with GarageBand, Logic Pro, and utilize the recording studio space to create songs and sound design pieces.

Topics covered include:

Acoustics, live audio equipment, digital audio workstations (DAWs), recording techniques, electronic music production, MIDI sequencing, sampling and beat production, song structure, analog/digital synthesizers, and music notation.

## **Music Production and Engineering 2**

### ***Grades 7 & 8: Year Long Course***

In Level 2, students are given extensive opportunities to apply their skills while learning more advanced concepts and techniques in production, recording, and live sound engineering.

Topics covered include:

Applied recording techniques, mixing consoles, film/video game scoring, tracking/mixing/mastering sessions, advanced music production strategies, and a self-guided creative project.

***Prerequisites: completion of Music Production and Engineering 1***

## **Keyboarding I**

In this hands-on introductory class, students will learn basic piano skills and fundamentals of music literacy including musical notation, rhythms, time signatures, and intervals. This course will also introduce students to music theory and help them to develop critical listening skills. There will be several in-class recitals and opportunities to perform in Chapel throughout the year. Upon successful completion of this year-long course, students are encouraged to continue into Keyboarding II.

## **Keyboarding II**

Students taking Keyboarding II will develop a deeper understanding of musical principles while exploring the joys of playing music at a higher level of mastery. Students will also practice aural skills and develop a keen ear for musical rhythms and melodies. Throughout this course students will be able to choose certain parts of their repertoire based on what they enjoy, making classes exciting and motivating. There will be several in-class recitals and opportunities to perform in Chapel throughout the year.

***Prerequisites: completion of Keyboarding I***