



Heathwood Fine Arts



Heathwood has a vibrant arts program for students from age two to grade 12. Through curricular and co-curricular opportunities in visual arts, performing arts, and creative writing, students explore under the guidance and inspiration of award-winning faculty and visiting artists. Our students gain artistic appreciation and discipline and a growing understanding of technique and its importance, how to put color, form, music, or words to a feeling, and how to approach a blank page or stage with utter fearlessness. Ultimately, Heathwood students trust themselves to create.

Performing Arts



Theater

Exposure to the stage begins in Early Childhood through grade-level performances, and grows into full production opportunities beginning in the fifth grade. Middle School students explore drama fundamentals in quarterly drama classes, gaining in-class performance experience and the opportunity to participate in Middle School and all-school productions. Upper School has a variety of drama classes, offering many performance and production opportunities, including Upper School and all-school performances, as well as state-wide drama festivals and competitions.



Chorus

Heathwood's choral program, for grades three to 12, emphasizes vocal training, music theory, music history, and choral performance skills. Students learn stage presence, leadership, and teamwork. They participate in festivals and competitions throughout the year and gain the experience of performing locally, and sometimes nationally and internationally. Heathwood also provides for advanced vocal students through two a cappella choirs.



Band

Band is offered to students in grades five through 12. They learn instrument fundamentals and music reading through classes that meet three days a week. An emphasis on overall musicianship is achieved through performances as a large ensemble and with smaller groups. In addition to formal performances, the jazz band, pep band and various chamber ensembles perform throughout the year at a variety of events and chapel services, as well as at band competitions.

Creative Writing

Creative writing is an integral part of Heathwood's academic experience. Because learning to write well is a norm at Heathwood, students feel free to explore their own creativity through curricular and co-curricular writing projects. Their work has been published in national anthologies and local newspapers, and quite a few seniors have won national essay contests. The faculty's encouragement of creative self-expression and dedication to individual mentoring have helped students achieve such awards as the prestigious Thomas Wolfe Scholarship in Creative Writing at The University of North Carolina.



Visual Arts

The visual arts experience begins with our youngest students through an age-appropriate, designated art studio that allows them to explore various art mediums. The Lower School art program focuses on elements of design and art history while exploring different mediums. Integration with the classroom units is integral. Students meet weekly, and their artwork is showcased in various exhibits and contests throughout the year, both on and off campus. We also offer after-school LS Art Club. Middle School visual art students are exposed to an array of artistic mediums through our art studios, covering two- and three-dimensional work, and participate in an integrated art/science or humanities project.

In the Upper School, courses in Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Environmental Art, Ceramics and Photography offer directed study of the history, tools, techniques, and conceptual possibilities of each discipline. Studio Art offers the opportunity to use those acquired skills in a self-directed art making course. Final semester seniors in Studio Art continue producing art, but also study exhibition techniques in order to present a cohesive solo exhibit of their artwork.



Visual Art Concentration (VAC) Diploma Distinction

The VAC exemplifies Heathwood's long tradition of knowing each student and encouraging their dedicated pursuit of excellence in an area of interest, specifically the visual arts. VAC students fulfill all of Heathwood's normal graduation requirements, but with increased visual art requirements and dedicated art-making time outside of class. In addition to completing extensive coursework in studio art, VAC students study art history, take on an arts-related internship, log at least 120 hours a year of studio time outside of the classroom, and pursue an arts-related Senior Exhibition project.

Arts Guild (HHarts)

HHarts (Heathwood Hall Friends of the Arts) is an all-volunteer group committed to enhance every student's experience of the arts through programming, service, advocacy, and financial support. HHarts helps students explore and discover their gifts and talents. The HHarts Master Workshops series brings artists from various disciplines to interact with students and community members, allowing students to expand their skills, and giving our community the chance to enjoy a focused exploration of the arts.