



**Curriculum Benchmarks**

**Grades 9-12  
Fine Arts**

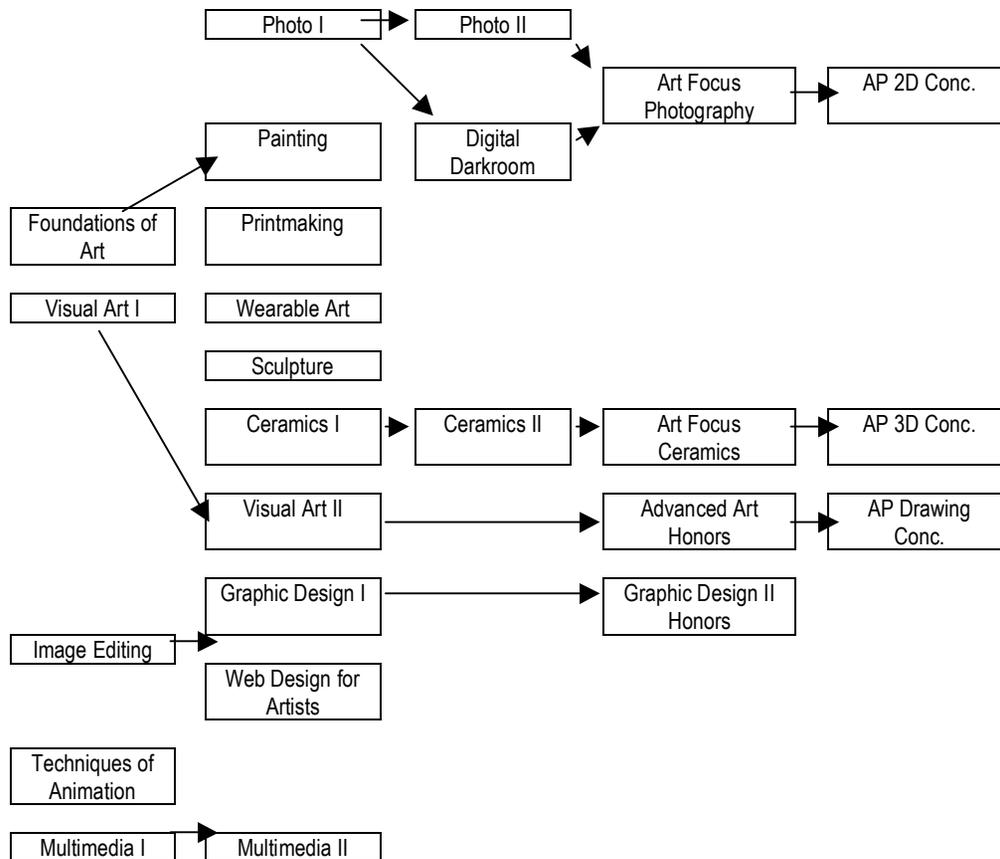
**Westford Academy**

Compiled by The Arts Curriculum Task Committee

*“Shaping the future one child at a time”*

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**Fine Arts Department Course Sequence**

*Visual Arts education inspires students to perceive and shape the visual, spatial, and aesthetic characteristics of the world around them. Using a variety of ways to explore, learn, and communicate, students develop their capacity for imaginative and reflective thinking.*

### **Full Year Course Offerings**

#### **Visual Art I**

- Build fundamental drawing and painting skills, and explore printmaking, mixed media, and sculpture
- Learn to interpret and discuss works of art

#### **Visual Art II**

- Continue developing skills in drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture
- Gain an understanding of personal expression and visual communication
- Reinforce ideas of aesthetics, art criticism, and art history

#### **Advanced Art Honors**

- Gain greater proficiency with a broad range of art media
- Begin to employ the elements and principles of design in making artwork that expresses personal points of view and metaphorical thinking
- Develop a competitive portfolio for college admissions

#### **Advanced Placement Studio Art**

(Drawing, Two- and Three- Dimensional Design Portfolio Concentration)

- Produce a highly structured portfolio based on the AP College Board model
- Create a series of artwork inspired by the choices and ideas of the artist
- Analyze personal and peer artwork through critical response

#### **Graphic Design I**

- Explore type, image, color, contrast, and concept development in design
- Utilize Adobe Creative Suites software program
- Explore design's important role in the world of business marketing

#### **Graphic Design II Honors**

- Gain proficiency with powerful visual graphic communication and presentation skills
- Develop a competitive portfolio for college admissions

#### **Web Design for Artists**

- Investigate a variety of website design layouts to build dynamic creative websites
- Use Dreamweaver, Fireworks, and Flash

#### **Multi Media I**

- Learn the basic techniques of video/digital editing using Final Cut Pro and Adobe After Effects
- Explore the use of still and video digital cameras in movie making

#### **Techniques of Animation**

- Explore the fundamentals of computer generated 3D modeling and animation using Flash

### **Semester Course Offerings**

#### **Foundations of Art**

- Build fundamental drawing and painting skills, and explore printmaking and mixed media
- Explore art from a historical and critical perspective

#### **Photography I**

- Explore conceptual and practical aspects of traditional (non-digital) photography
- Learn fundamentals of black and white photography and basic darkroom techniques

#### **Photography II**

- Refine black and white photography skills
- Explore alternative photographic processes and develop a personal style

#### **Digital Darkroom**

- Learn the fundamentals of digital scanning, digital capture, and image manipulation

#### **Painting**

- Learn fundamental painting techniques and procedures
- Use painting as a means of self expression
- Explore paintings from a historical perspective

#### **Printmaking**

- Explore printmaking processes such as monotype, etching, collograph, and linoleum block
- Analyze prints from around the world

#### **Sculpture**

- Explore a variety of three-dimensional materials
- Learn to interpret and discuss sculptural works

#### **Wearable Art**

- Create sophisticated works of personal adornment and attire
- Investigate the personal adornment of world cultures

#### **Ceramics I**

- Build fundamental skills in a variety of hand-building processes
- Explore the rich history of ceramic arts

#### **Ceramics II**

- Gain proficiency in hand-building skills
- Learn the process of wheel-throwing
- Take inspiration from ceramic history and develop a personal style

#### **Art History**

- Study works of art and artists from cultures throughout time
- Become proficient at describing and analyzing works of art

#### **Art Focus**

Prerequisite: grade of 90 or above in levels I and II and permission of instructor

- Create a portfolio of student-driven work
- Exhibit exceptional design and craftsmanship