



## Perpich Center for Arts Education the Arts High School School Profile 2011-2012

The Arts High School, established in 1989, is a tuition-free, public, residential high school for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The school is part of the Perpich Center for Arts Education – a state agency created and funded by the Minnesota Legislature to promote access to and opportunities for arts education for all Minnesota students. Students who wish to attend the Arts High School must go through a competitive application and review process. Those accepted have shown artistic promise and a strong commitment to serious study in the arts and academics. The school stresses arts and academics equally and integrates the two using interdisciplinary curricula that stress creative and analytical thinking, problem solving and decision-making.

The Arts High School is founded on a unique approach to learning. The school curriculum is based on clearly defined, high standards of achievement and is centered on the learner. Every student is an active participant in his or her personal learning and assessment processes. With the assistance of teachers, students are continually measuring progress and growth toward defined outcomes.

The school enrolls up to 310 students in grades 11 and 12 from all parts of Minnesota and from diverse backgrounds. Approximately 140 students from outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area board on campus in the residential facility.

The Arts High School follows a Block Schedule System in which full-credit academic courses are held in 85-minute periods Monday through Friday for one semester. Half credit academic/arts elective courses are 45 minutes, 5 times a week for one semester. Arts courses are approximately 4 hours per day through the duration of the school year for two full credits. The school day runs from 7:50 AM to 4:15 PM.

The school has a faculty of 23 full-time and 6 part-time teachers. Each art area regularly employs guest artists who teach special units throughout the school year. This teaching staff represents a broad mix of professional teachers and artists with exemplary credentials. The school is accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling and complies with their Statement of Principles of Good Practice.

The school provides a college preparatory program with academic courses in English, mathematics, science, social studies and world languages. The arts program includes dance, integrated arts-sciences, literary arts, media arts, music, theater and visual arts. Arts courses are college preparatory and require college level reading and written assignments in addition to technical work in the particular art area.

### The Arts High School

#### Class of 2011

**Class Size: 136 students**

**100% Graduated**

Post Secondary Plans	National Merit Results	College Entrance Exam Testing
<p><b>86% College Bound</b>            4 Yr Colleges = 76%            2 Yr Colleges = 10%  <b>Internships/Intensive Study-Arts Area = 2%:</b>  <b>Travel/Work/Military=12%</b></p>	<p>2 Commended Students</p>	<p><b>Mean Testing Scores</b>  <b>ACT Composite = 23.4</b>  <b>SAT</b>            Critical Reading = 592            Math = 547            Writing = 565            Essay = 8.2</p>

## POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED – CLASS of 2011

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS WEST-CA  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY-AZ  
AUGSBURG COLLEGE-MN  
BARD COLLEGE-NY  
BELOIT COLLEGE-WI  
CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS-CA  
COLORADO COLLEGE-CO  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO-IL  
COLUMBUS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN-OH  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY -IL  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY-NY  
CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS-WA  
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY-IL  
DREW UNIVERSITY-NJ  
ELON UNIVERSITY-NC  
EUGENE LANG COLLEGE NEW SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL  
ARTS-NY  
FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE-FL  
GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE-MN  
HAMLINE UNIVERSITY-MN  
KNOX COLLEGE-IL  
KOBE UNIVERSITY-JAPAN  
LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE-OR  
MAINE COLLEGE OF ART-ME  
MARYLAND INSTITUTE COLLEGE OF ART-MD  
MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN-WI  
MINNEAPOLIS BUSINESS COLLEGE-MN  
MINNEAPOLIS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN-MN  
MINNEAPOLIS COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE-MN  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGE SOUTHEAST TECHNICAL -  
MN

MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO-MN  
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD-MN  
MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE-MA  
NAROPA UNIVERSITY-CO  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-NY  
NORMANDEALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-MN  
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY-ND  
NORTH HENNEPIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-MN  
NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE-MN  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF ART-OR  
PARSONS NEW SCHOOL FOR DESIGN -NY  
SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN-GA  
SCHOOL OF THE ART INSTITUTE CHICAGO-IL  
SCHOOL OF VISUAL ARTS-NY  
SIMMONS COLLEGE-MA  
ST JOHN'S UNIVERSITY-MN  
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-AZ  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA-CANADA  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER-CO  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH-MN  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MORRIS-MN  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES-MN  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS-LA  
UNIVERSITY OF ST THOMAS-MN  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE-WI  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS-WI  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEVENS PT.-WI  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SUPERIOR-WI  
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY-UT  
VITERBO UNIVERSITY-WI  
WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY-MN

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS / ASSESSMENTS

The requirements to graduate from the Arts High School met or exceed those set by the Minnesota State Board of Education. Graduation from the school requires full-time attendance in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades and a minimum of 22.0 credit units. Ten (10) credits earned in grades 9 and 10 are honored and applied to the 22.0 credit minimum. During grades 11 and 12, students must earn a minimum of 12.0 credits, 10.0 of which must be earned at the Arts High School or at college through PSEO (Post Secondary Enrollment Options).

The specific credits required during grades 11 and 12 are:

- In 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades at Perpich, a total of 12.0 credits, which include 4.0 credits in the arts, 2.0 credits in English, and 6.0 credits in academic/arts elective courses.
- Annually approximately 35 students are admitted specifically into grade 12, where they are required to earn 6.0 credits: 2.0 in the arts, 1.0 in English, and 3.0 in academic/arts elective courses.

**In addition to credit requirements, each student must pass the required State of Minnesota assessments in reading, math and writing.**

## GRADING SYSTEM

### GRADE POINT AVERAGE AND CLASS RANK

Grade Point Average (GPA) is computed on a 4.0 point scale:

A = 4.0	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D = 0 (does affect GPA)
A- = 3.67	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	NC = 0 (does affect GPA)
	B- = 2.67	C- = 1.67	W = withdrew from class at the beginning of the term (does not affect GPA)

Courses that are not weighted: Art aide positions, independent study, and internships are offered as pass/no-pass courses. Numeric grades from all other courses are included in the GPA.

Class rank is not reported. In place of rank, indications of a student's relative class standing – the decile, GPA mean, median and range of the class - are provided upon request.

Honor Diplomas: Students who attend Perpich for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades and who earn 14.0 credits or more in grades 11 and 12 AND maintain a cumulative GPA (grades 9 through 12) of 3.6/4.0 or higher will be awarded diplomas with honors designation. Students who enter Perpich for only their senior year and earn 7.0 credits in grade 12 AND maintain a cumulative GPA (grades 9 through 12) of 3.6/4.0 or higher will also be awarded diplomas with honors designation.

## The Value of Education Centered in the Arts

The study of the arts is marginalized in most secondary education while at the Perpich Center for Arts Education, it is the *center* of our work. Why? Because it engages young people in learning and prepares them with the knowledge and skills to keep on learning. What is it they learn, and why is it so important? Simply put, the arts teach fundamental knowledge and skills which include:

**Critical thinking skills:** People use many routes to learn, including kinesthetic, auditory, visual, synthetic (putting concepts together), analytic (taking concepts apart), and evaluative. One compares, contrasts, and forms opinions based on actual work and the studying of time and place. Problem posing, problem solving, and decision-making are fundamental skills in life that are integral to the study of the arts. The arts engage all critical thinking skills and offer many more avenues for students with varied learning styles and approaches.

**Arts Area Knowledge:** Art works/performances/pieces are both content and experience based. They engage the learner at a level that is personally meaningful and that builds connections across time, cultures, and geography.

**The Arts Area Work:** To get from the blank page, the empty screen, or the dark auditorium to the creative form, one tackles and sustains a complex level of work of the mind, hand, and will. The arts teach thinking and doing where:

- the pathway is not known in advance, leading one to novel solutions and the capacity to work through uncertain situations.
- the connection from beginning to end result is unseen and uncertain, but one continues toward a desired end, navigating the unexpected and uncertain.
- multiple right answers, not the “one right” answer, are evolved which gives one many options for desirable results and outcomes.
- multiple and complex criteria are used for nuanced judgments rather than simplistic, misleading or narrow criteria.
- self-regulation is required, enabling one to self-correct for maximum quality of results.
- appreciation of high quality is developed and teaches one that not all results are equal.
- discipline, commitment, and endurance are rewarded, since the work takes time and is inherently satisfying.

This short list suggests the range of knowledge and skills that sustained work in the arts develops in students and brings to education. The abilities developed through centering education in the arts transfer to all other areas of learning and produce students who are self-motivated and intellectually curious problem solvers. They see the connections between questions and problems, and they approach learning and understanding across disciplines. These are the qualities which support life long learning.

## ART AREAS – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### Dance - Levels I & II

The Arts High School modern dance-based program offers classes in modern dance, ballet, composition, history, criticism, improvisation, and body studies. Students develop technique, a broader movement vocabulary, and a wide view of dance. The process of learning and creating dance is a primary focus of the program. Students have opportunities to develop and use their skills while exploring their personal voice as a choreographer and performer. Dancers study modern dance or ballet in a daily technique class. They come into the program with varying skill levels and are placed in classes accordingly. All dance students work on major performance projects. The dance department is committed to performance as a teaching tool, an assessment tool, and as a vehicle for artistic expression. Students perform their own work—as well as the work of professional choreographers—in concerts throughout the year. They create work from classroom assignments, and on their own as they form a performing ensemble. In recent years, students have performed at the Walker Art Center, Bryant Lake Bowl, Patrick’s Cabaret, and the Southern Theater.

### Literary Arts - Levels I & II

The Literary Arts program helps each student develop a distinctive voice as a writer. Students explore their own ideas and experiences through daily in-class writing. They study and work in all genres—poetry, fiction, and nonfiction—and read literature from diverse periods and

cultures. The Literary Arts program requires formalized study of literature, identifying literary movements and placing them in social and historical context. Students participate in peer critique circles, read their work in a variety of public settings, and compile a collective anthology at the end of each school year. They have the opportunity to pursue creative projects of their own choosing. Finally, a very important goal of Literary Arts is to develop a supportive, constructive writing community. Graduates from the Literary Arts Program have not only learned to effectively and creatively express themselves through writing, they have also learned to confidently present their writing in public, and to submit work for publication. Our students learn to make their voices heard.

### Media Arts: Photography/Cinema - Levels I & II

The Media Arts program teaches students to use elements and tools of current and emerging technologies to create works that express feelings and ideas. Students are challenged to appreciate, analyze, and create works through the moving image, stop-motion animation, sound, photography, digital arts, and interactive media. Juniors are introduced to a variety of genres and approaches to subject matter, basic technology, and criticism in an historical and cultural context. They develop critical and creative thinking skills by creating works that convey their own ideas. Seniors learn advanced skills and techniques, history and theory, career planning and portfolio development, and work on an independent senior project of their choice.

Students learn through hands-on assignments, lectures, readings, and technical demonstrations. Work is evaluated through self-assessment, peer-assessment, and teacher assessment during class critiques, projects, portfolio interviews, class discussions, exhibitions, observations, technical tests, and technical demonstrations. Media Arts students are involved with the community both regionally and nationally, in a variety of venues. Students have won over 150 regional and national awards for their work through competitions such as Scholastic Art Awards Program and National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Arts High School students have worked on a variety of community projects with other institutions including the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Independent Feature Project Minnesota, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, and cable access centers.

### **Music - Levels I & II**

The Arts High School music program is designed for dedicated music students with a broad range of musical interests. Across the musical spectrum – in classical, jazz, popular, and experimental genres – classes and instructors focus on developing musicianship, discipline, communication, artistry, and technique. Participation in the Arts High School music program is best suited to students who are passionate about their study of music, open to many types of music and musical cultures, and willing to explore their unique musical voice. Music seminars and performance ensembles make up the music program. A sample of music seminars includes: music theory and ear training, composition, European and American music history, music through electronics using MIDI and multi-track recording, world music, technique classes for guitar and voice, and inter-disciplinary seminars with other arts and academic subjects. Students participate in a minimum of four and a maximum of six ensembles throughout the year. Ensembles are determined by the types of voices and instruments represented, and typically include jazz bands, classical ensembles, rock bands, folk and pop groups. Many ensembles write their own music, while others arrange existing music according to the instruments and voices in their group. Music students are encouraged to participate in the PCAE choir, which is open to all students.

Performances are a vital part of the music program. Students help prepare programs, publicize the concerts, and act as stage managers and sound technicians. The music program produces an average of fifteen concerts per school year, all of which represent the mix of musical voices and styles (acoustic and electric) at the Perpich.

### **Theater - Levels I & II**

Using the model of a professional ensemble company, theater students learn proven performance techniques and explore exciting innovations in theater practice. We produce the kind of plays that get launched at Fringe Festivals, or are produced at progressive regional theaters.

The Theater is challenging for all levels of experience from beginner to advanced. Guest artists from the Twin Cities professional community contribute to the work. We offer solid preparation for college programs in Theater and the Liberal Arts and have a strong record of placement in Conservatory Programs.

### **Visual Arts - Levels I & II**

Students in the Visual Arts program become thinking artists and learn to use a variety of media and communications—written, visual, and verbal. The curriculum encourages community-building and gives students access to arts careers and higher education in Visual Arts. The Visual Arts Department is well respected by arts colleges and liberal arts programs across the country. Exploring and expanding students' personal voices through media, critical thinking, and decision-making are the cornerstones of the program. Students expand their creativity, knowledge, and discipline through production of artwork, discussion, critique, and observation. Curriculum for juniors gives students a common language and builds a supportive atmosphere. All junior students share this communal experience of core learning—studying painting, drawing, graphic design, printmaking, documentation, portfolio development, and art history. Electives frame the experience for seniors. Choices—including papermaking, oil painting, advanced drawing, stop-motion animation, ceramics, sculpture, digital imaging, grant writing, public art, sculpture, jewelry, monotype printmaking, screen printing, and portfolio development—prepare students for their next step. Senior classes are designed to hone skills, develop independence, and explore post-secondary options. Both years are grounded in critique, making connections, and discovering a broader and deeper understanding of how the visual arts relate to a variety of disciplines.

**ART AIDES:** Selected students will work in their art area as aides to the faculty and will receive credit and a grade of P (pass) or NP (no pass) in the following areas:

Media: Video and Photography Archive Assistant  
Photography Lab Assistant

Theater: Assistant Technical Director

Visual: Gallery Coordinator  
Studio Aide  
Graphics Coordinator  
Documentation Aide

## **Integrated ArtScience**

This is a new area at Perpich that began the fall of 2011.

Integrated Arts is a program for students interested in more than one art area. This year students are creating a multi-disciplinary theater performance based on middle school transitions. Students are writing, acting, dancing, choreographing, making short films and building props. In the winter they will create another show based on "Einstein's Dreams". They study Art/ Science to further explore combinations of curriculum.

## **ACADEMICS**

### **English**

The English program at Perpich is both academically rigorous and truly art-centered. Our courses are college preparatory and our curriculum is subject to a formal review cycle in order to ensure that it meets and exceeds State Standards in Language Arts & Communication. Through high expectations, all students are given the opportunity to develop a strong foundation of skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking in classrooms that are largely discussion-based. Throughout the rich variety of offerings—including American and world literature, film studies and mass media, writing, and speech—art is both the subject of study and also a means of studying. The English curriculum reflects a commitment to diversity of perspectives and prepares students to participate knowledgeably in a complex, multicultural world. Formal academic writing, research and media literacy, and creative writing in a variety of genres are also mainstays of our program.

### **Mathematics**

The Mathematics program acknowledges diverse learning styles and prepares students for higher education by offering a variety of classes, including Advanced Algebra, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and Statistics and Probability. All Mathematics courses employ the most current technology and incorporate the arts at every opportunity. College preparatory classes include coursework in functions, statistics, trigonometry, geometric concepts, and calculus.

### **Science**

Through critical analysis of standard conceptions (and often misconceptions) about how the universe and the environment

work, students at the Arts High School learn to see connections among science disciplines and between science and the arts. Courses offered include Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Science Seminar, Science in Art and The Human Condition. Guided by an interdisciplinary focus, students explore the range and history of our scientific understanding as a species.

### **Social Studies**

Social Studies classes are designed with two primary aims: developing students' awareness and interaction with society around them, and providing opportunities to show the relevance of social studies processes to their lives in the arts. Social Studies courses offered include Sociology, Contemporary World Issues, Urban Geography, Advanced American Studies, 20th Century World History, and Collision Course. Research is central to all Social Studies classes. In each class, students complete at least one major research project in the interest of developing student confidence and literacy.

### **World Languages**

The World Languages program offers Spanish (Levels 1-5) and French (Levels 1-5). Given the successful completion of coursework at another school or institution, students enter the next appropriate level of study. Students in Levels 4 & 5 earn high school and college credit through College in the Schools. Language courses focus on reading, writing, speaking, and listening, as well as learning about culture. In addition to typical language activities, students experience enriched interdisciplinary projects that connect language to art and other academic areas.

**ACADEMIC CLASSES LISTED BY SUBJECT AREA** AP = ADVANCED PLACEMENT CIS = COLLEGE IN THE SCHOOLS

**ENGLISH**

- African American Literature
- Analysis and Criticism
- Children's Literature
- Communications (CIS)
- English Literature & Composition (AP)
- Explorations in Writing
- German Literature
- International Short Stories
- Mass Media and Democracy
- Mythological Lens
- Poetry & Performance
- Shakespeare
- World Literature

**MATHEMATICS**

- General Math
- Geometry
- Algebra, Advanced
- Pre-Calculus
- Calculus (AP) (AB)
- Mathematical Modeling and Prediction (CIS)

**SCIENCE**

- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Science in Art

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

- Advanced American Studies
- AP Art History (Cave Painting to Renaissance and Renaissance to 1945)
- Collision Course (1960s; an examination of art as a reaction to and shaper of sociopolitical culture)
- Contemporary World Issues
- Sociology
- Urban Geography
- World History: 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURE:**

- French: Levels 1 through 5; Levels 4 & 5 are CIS
- Spanish: Levels 2 through 5; Levels 4 & 5 are CIS
- Cultural Studies France

**ELECTIVES**

- Acting, Beginning
- American Indian Aesthetics
- Animation
- Chinese Cultural Exchange
- Choir
- Contextual Image
- Documentary Filmmaking
- Draw What You See
- Electronic Music
- Guitar, Acoustic-Levels I & II
- Internships
- Literary Magazine
- Modern Ballet and Jazz
- Movement Theater and Composition
- Musical Theater Production/Choral Theater
- Photography, Basic Black & White
- Piano, Beginning
- Studio Arts (AP)- 2D Design Portfolio
- Theater Tech
- Yoga and Anatom