Burke Performing Arts

**Theater:** The drama program at Burke is lively and engaging. The crafts of acting, design and playwriting are studied in detail. Students may choose to participate in the high school fall play, the winter musical, the spring middle school play, and student-written and directed One-Act plays. Our no-cut policy allows both highly experienced and first time participants the opportunity to share the stage and learn from one another. Students interested in technical theater may take stagecraft in 8th grade and also opt to work on after school crew for the shows. Students may create independent studies in any aspect of technical theater, and some choose to work on shows as assistant directors, choreographers, costume designers, lighting and sound personnel, and stage managers.

**Music:** Music is an integral part of the Burke community. Students can participate in one of four Choruses and twelve Bands, earning academic credit for each. Students sing in a master class-like setting as well as rehearse as an ensemble for events, such as the winter holiday party and the spring choral showcase. They perform a variety of genres, ranging from traditional choral standards to the popular a cappella music of today. In Band all instruments are welcomed and many students play more than one. They perform frequently at assemblies and school events as well as outside the community at jazz festivals and venues such as Blues Alley and the National Mall.

**Courses offered include:**
- 6th Grade Performing Arts Rotation (choral, instrumental, drama)
- 7th and 8th grade Choruses, Bands and Drama
- Middle School Stagecraft
- High School Chorus, Singing in the Spotlight, A Cappella Choir, Gospel and Folk Choir
- Intermediate and Advanced Band
- Basic Drama, Advanced Drama, One Acts Playwriting
- 3D Design, Theatre Design and Production, Independent Studies

Burke Visual Arts

We know that adolescents have a story to tell, and we give them the means to tell it in many ways, whether it be through painting and drawing, clay, video, photography, or mixed media. It all culminates in an annual spring art show where individual expression is as varied as our students here at Burke. Our program has been described by educational consultants as “amazing - on the level of a college art program.” And our urban location allows us to easily make use of all the aesthetic resources in DC.

**Courses offered include:**
- Ceramics 1 & 2
- Drawing & Painting
- Mixed Media
- Photography
- Photojournalism
- Art of the Book, Urban Alchemy
- Directions & Avenues
- Video Production
- Portfolio Development