Edmund Burke School | Middle School (Grades 6-8)

Visual Arts Department

We open students’ eyes, hearts, and minds to the rich and varied world of art. Hands-on explorations with an array of media and techniques are the core of our program. Exposure to past and current trends and diverse cultural traditions in art enrich the studio experience. Our urban location provides easy access to the many museums and galleries of DC, and field trips are woven into our art curriculum.

6th Grade - Art Explorations

Students learn principles of 2-D and 3-D composition with a variety of materials and techniques, such as clay, relief printing, non-traditional mixed-media self-portraits, and environmental art projects. Many projects echo and reinforce the core 6th grade curriculum, enabling a different, tactile mode of learning.

7th Grade - Directions and Avenues

Students learn to create the illusion of space on a two-dimensional surface and explore the elements of art making, including line, tone, color and composition, while working on individual projects that are designed to challenge beginning and experienced artists alike.

8th Grade - “A Menu of Art Media”

*Students choose trimester-long courses from offerings including:*

- **Ceramics** - clay hand-building techniques to create both personally expressive and functional pieces
- **Photography** - visual culture and imagemaking, paying attention to the audience and what to include or exclude from the frame
● **Filmmaking** - the structure of visual storytelling and the language of film
● **Urban Alchemy** - mixed media art from materials found in our urban environment

**Special Projects**

● The Mural Club creates a group mural annually around a social justice theme
● 6th grade student collaborate with the National Gallery of Art

**Preparation for High School**

Students conclude the Middle School Art Program with:

● ability to communicate ideas through visual expressions
● first-hand experience with a variety of art media and techniques
● familiarity with, and ability to use, the vocabulary of visual art
● practiced ability to observe closely, and reflect constructively upon, students' own artwork and that of their peers
● appreciation of the art expressions and traditions of other cultures and time periods
● awareness that art can be a powerful voice for social justice
● understanding that art is sometimes fun, sometimes difficult, and always important

Visit our Online Art Gallery:
bit.ly/BurkeVisual