



Arts/Wellness Department

Art Curriculum Grades 9-12



Norwell Public Schools' grade 9-12 art curriculum is aligned to the [Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework](#), last revised in 2019. Through its wide range of rigorous programming, the visual art program at Norwell High School is designed to address students at both what the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education refers to as *basic* and *extended* levels of study in the arts.

In Art I/II, students develop skills with a wide range of materials used in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and other forms of production, as well as the historical background of the styles of art they create. Critique is introduced as a way of articulating purpose and result. In the more advanced elective courses, students enhance previously learned skills and are also directed toward more in-depth work utilizing their own aesthetics, abilities, and creativity. AP Studio Art is offered to motivated seniors who are interested in pursuing our most rigorous visual art course.

The program's philosophy runs deep in the belief that creative and technical knowledge must run side by side to develop a successful, confident and competent artist. Students are exposed to the historical evolution of art with an emphasis on the appreciation of art and how it was made. This knowledge of art appreciation is often explored in their own works of art. Students are called upon to "make art" in a timely manner by taking risks and always focusing on creativity, craftsmanship, basic art concepts, and truthful self-evaluation. It is our hope that students will carry the art making process throughout their lives.

The **Arts/Wellness Department** believes that students proficient in the visual arts should have the opportunity to engage meaningfully with visual art through the four processes summarized best by the 2016 [National Core Arts Anchor Standards](#).

- **Creating:** Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.
- **Presenting:** Interpreting and sharing artistic work.
- **Responding:** Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- **Connecting:** Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

[2019 Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework](#)
[2016 National Core Arts Standards](#)
[Norwell High School Program of Studies](#) provides more detailed information about courses, expectations and opportunities.

NHS Art course sequence (right)

