

VANCOUVER SCHOOL OF ARTS AND ACADEMICS PROFILE...

The Vancouver School of Arts and Academics (VSAA) is a school of choice where the arts are immersed in academic study. Five hundred and seventy five students in grades 6-12 choose to attend VSAA based on their interest in the arts. At the school, they pursue a wide variety of learning opportunities ranging from subject exploration to advanced study.

The School of Arts and Academics offers a complete and fully accredited middle and high school program including advanced levels of science, mathematics, and foreign language. All students attend VSAA full-time. This means students take all academic and art classes on VSAA's campus. The daily atmosphere of strenuous creative work, self-discipline, integrity, and dedication prepares students for both college and future careers. In accordance with the vision of the Vancouver School District, the school's goal is for graduates to "achieve literacy and appropriate core competencies, and become responsible and compassionate citizens."

Vancouver School of Arts and Academics is characterized by a simple alternating A/B schedule. Each student has a teacher assigned who remains his or her advocate for seven years. Advocacy meets every Monday and Friday for 30 minutes. Additionally, High School students attend an interdisciplinary-arts core class Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. High school students, once they have met academic graduation requirements have the option of taking additional art classes. Beginning thru an advanced level of six art forms is offered: Dance, Music, Theatre, Literary Arts, Visual Arts, and Moving Image Arts. All grade levels are integrated into all classes. All students are expected to explore each art form but may choose to focus in one or more arts during their seven years at the school. Professional artists and community leaders play an important role at the school. Students learn alongside working artists and also have field experiences in the community.

Located on Main Street in the city of Vancouver, Washington and near the heart of the Portland, Oregon, metropolitan area, the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics is well-placed as a community arts center. The school offers a wide array of performance, studio, and exhibition space to students and artists alike. Originally built as the historic Shumway Junior High School in 1929, the school was remodeled in 1996 and again in 2008 through local bond dollars and a generous grant from the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development.