



Full STEAM Ahead

The Art Station is pleased to offer art curriculum at Ideaventions Academy. When children are excited and engaged, they become sponges for learning. Adding the “A” (arts) to a STEM-based program (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) provides children with yet another outlet for creative problem-solving and self-expression.

Research studies have proven a link between the arts and student academic achievement. Students who regularly engage in an artistic activity (be it visual, musical, dance or performance in nature) consistently outperform their peers in standardized testing. Other ways the arts benefit students:

- It fosters creative problem-solving
- Helps develop fine motor skills and visual acuity
- Art appreciation helps round out children’s background

Interested in learning more about the ways that the arts benefit students? Read this publication from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies: [“Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement”](#)

Unique Curriculum

It’s our pleasure to bring a different kind of art program to a different kind of school. Both The Art Station and Ideaventions Academy share the same belief that learning should be fun and hands-on. About our curriculum:

- 8-week programs built around various themes (such as “In the Footsteps of the Masters,” “Art from Around the World, “Exploring the 3rd Dimension” and “Creativity Lab”)
- Program themes are adjusted/modified for each age/skill level, offering progressively deeper exploration into each lesson

- Each session includes a lesson on the artist/medium/style/subject, as well as hands-on time for students to create their own works-of-art inspired by the topic of the day
- Children develop critical-thinking skills and build confidence through “show and share” time where we contrast and complement each student’s work
- We explore a wide range of mediums—from the “exotic” (such as working with clay or wax) to the household (where we teach children how to get creative with the things around them)
- Our programs span from the “traditional” to the “contemporary,” ensuring that children of all skills and interests will find something to connect with

Our Philosophy

We believe that every child (and adult) has a creative side, and that it’s our job to help them explore it in a positive, encouraging atmosphere. Our message to our students: Your goal is to create, not duplicate. (After all, even Van Gogh himself had days that weren’t so Van Gogh-ish.)

The Art Station simply provides a starting point and a framework for each child to then apply the principles we’ve discussed to a hands-on project. And we believe that our “show and share” time is a critical component of every lesson where students take the time to wax philosophical and give each other pats on the back.

Curriculum Plan for 2015-2016 School Year

Unit 1: “Exploring Mixed Media” is a great survey course for children to gain exposure to a wide range of mediums including collage, clay, up-cycled materials (such as soda cans), acrylic paint, colored pencils, construction paper, chalk pastels and more. We’ll transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, inspiring children to see creative uses of materials simply available at their fingertips.

Unit 2: “In the Footsteps of the Masters” is a creative blend of art appreciation and inspired art-making. We learn about both traditional and contemporary artists, exploring each artist’s iconic piece, and then encourage students to create their own unique works of art by applying the same technique or style.

Unit 3: The batik method, photo transfers, printmaking—these are just a few of the “Unique Techniques” that students will explore during this session. The emphasis is on process and material selection—teaching children the importance of sequencing and providing them with hands-on experience that tests the properties of each medium. Students emerge with an understanding that “art” can be much more than simply paint on canvas.

Unit 4: Contemporary Art Forms: Graphic Novels - Comics are a great way to integrate art with literature. From designing characters to developing story arcs, we’ll tap into both hemispheres of our brains to create graphic novels: the left for writing, and the right for drawing. This holistic approach allows students to flourish in many ways: They’ll learn the importance of structure, the aesthetics of design and the freedom of imagination. By the end of the session, students will have a full comic strip built upon the principles learned over the course of the program.

About The Art Station

We opened our first studio in 2013 in Leesburg, Virginia. Our mission: To create a space where children and adults of all skill levels and interests can go to express their creative sides. Through a mix of formal classes and drop-in “open studio” art projects, our guests have the opportunity to explore painting, soap-making, candle-making, mixed media and more.

We also offer:

- Painting & wine-tasting events
- Birthday parties
- Summer camps
- Private events (including “Ladies’ Night Out”)
- Fundraisers
- Off-site events

We hope you’ll visit our studio the next time you’re in the area:

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[Learn more>](#)