

Changes to Lower School Q4 Art Classes

Dear TAPA Lower School students & families,

The Art Department and TAPA Administration have been in deep discussion about how to best approach the quarter 4 arts pre-major courses for our 7th & 8th grade students. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has our schools transitioning into an all virtual learning format through April, our original plans required heavy revisions.

The process of pre-majoring at TAPA has always been a hands on and collaborative journey. We take pride in our ability to give students the resources, technology, and space they need to prepare themselves for their Art Auditions; a special TAPA milestone. We know this is a very exciting and important time for our Lower School students. Our 8th grade students especially; you have deliberated which art you would like to major in, completed the pre-major interview process with Mrs R-H, and I know that you have all been looking forward to beginning your audition prep in quarter 4.

As we discussed possible options to create a virtual classroom for this process, the following became clear to us:

- 1.) We do not have the ability to supply every student with the resources they need to properly prepare their audition.
 - a.) (Instruments/ Film equipment/ Open spaces to move and create)
- 2.) We can not guarantee all students will have the ability to receive quality 1 on 1 mentoring with their Art teachers to equitably prepare them to be assessed on the same grading rubric for auditions.
- 3.) Creating the same group collaboration and support for audition prep virtually is extremely difficult. The last thing we want is for our students to feel alone in the process of preparing a milestone performance/project. We do not want to add stress to an already stressful transition for our students.

You deserve the full pre-major experience. Unfortunately, there is no way for you to get that digitally. We don't want to let you down by having an "online pre-major", so we are pushing it to the fall so you can really have the whole experience. This means that auditions will also happen next school year. What does that mean for art classes next year for rising 9th graders? We're working on that too. Not to worry, we will loop you in as soon as we have finalized those plans.

What does quarter 4 arts look like now?

We are still determined to bring art making opportunities to all of you. We have created an "Artist Exploration Course" that will allow each of our Artists in Residence to "visit"

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you one last time with art making that will enhance your artistry, no matter your major, to further prepare you for audition prep next fall. When you rejoin your Art teachers in the fall, you will use the work you submit in quarter 4 to further build your audition piece and art defense. We want to help you strengthen your artist's toolbox, because we know the more tools you have the more successful you will be for your audition, the arts, and your life!

1. Every week you will be "visited" by a different Artist who will post an art lesson within their area of expertise on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Google Classroom.
 - a. Lessons will be turned into your Art Google Classroom
 - b. Lessons are Pass/Fail
 - c. Lessons are designed to push you creatively and expand your art skills
2. Wednesdays & Fridays you "Choose A Challenge" from a virtual deck of cards.
 - a. This Virtual Deck of Cards will be posted in your Art Google Classroom
 - b. Challenges will be documented on a "Challenge Tracker" document that we have created for you.
 - c. Choose A Challenge assignments are designed to be fun and give you choice in what brings you creative artistic joy.
 - d. Choose 2 challenges a week to complete.
3. All your lessons are graded on a Pass/Fail system.
 - a. If you complete the assignment correctly & put in clear effort you pass!
 - b. If you don't turn in anything you fail that assignment.
4. You will rotate through the arts each week.
 - a. You will see every art 2 more times.
 - b. Week 9 you will be in your pre-major (1st Choice)
 - c. Week 10 you will be in your 2nd choice (what your art minor would be)

We know this is not the ideal way you wanted to spend art during quarter 4 and we're all disappointed about that too. But we are still SO excited to find new ways to connect with you and create art with you virtually. We honestly feel that this will help us discover new amazing things about each of you that we can use in your audition prep next year. Thank you for trusting that we have the best intentions for you, for bringing an open mind to this new experience, and for putting your very best foot forward on this next step into your artistic journey.

Believing in you always,
Ms. Nadeau