SLArts

Course Catalog



"Becoming confident and creative builders of our future, equipped through the arts and academics to take responsibility for shaping our communities." - SLArts Mission statement.

We envision all students excelling through the middle school years, with confidence, passion, and engagement.

"To be an artist is to believe in life."

Henry Moore

Arts

Digital Arts 1 (Instructor - Jiggs)
This course introduces 5th-grade students to the basics of digital drawing using Google applications. By exploring shapes, lines, and colors, students will create personalized digital artwork and develop essential digital organization skills through file management and portfolio creation.

Digital Arts 2 (Instructor - Jiggs)
This 6th-grade course introduces students to professional design software like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Through various projects, including pixel art and animation, students will hone their digital art skills and continue developing their digital organization and portfolio management skills.

Digital Arts 2/3 (Instructor - Jiggs)
Digital Arts 2/3 is a foundational course for 7th and 8th-grade students who missed Digital Arts 6. It introduces them to professional design software, such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Through various projects, including pixel art and animation, students will develop their digital art skills and improve their digital organization and portfolio management practices.

Digital Arts 3 (Instructor - Jiggs)
Digital Arts 3 is an advanced course for 7th and 8th-grade students seeking to develop their Adobe software skills. It combines digital art instruction with yearbook production. Students will learn advanced techniques in Photoshop and Illustrator, set personal artistic goals, and collaborate to create the school yearbook.

SALT LAKE ARTS ACADEMY

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Visual Art 1: Foundations of Art (Instructor - Elizabeth Wilson)
This introductory course emphasizes developing personal proficiency in the fundamental language of art. Students will explore and apply the Elements of Art through various projects, focusing on skill and technique, craftsmanship, and creative expression. Critical thinking and analysis will be fostered through critiques and discussions that utilize the CAB/PEPR feedback method. Students will also gain an understanding of art through historical context by examining artists' lives and their connections to the environment, culture, and religion. Students will begin to reflect on their creative process by considering how their personal experiences and observations influence their ability to create, present, respond, and connect with art.

Visual Art 2: Expanding Artistic Skills (Instructor - Elizabeth Wilson)
Building upon foundational knowledge, Visual Art 2 encourages individual artistic growth and a deeper understanding of art fundamentals. Students will tackle new creative challenges, solve visual problems, and make independent artistic choices. This course introduces a wider range of materials and techniques, including monoprints, fabric printmaking, photography, wire sculpture, and larger-scale painting. Students will be required to maintain an art journal for weekly assignments, fostering reflection and documentation of their artistic process. Through journal entries and class discussions, students will analyze how their artistic choices in the Create, Present, Respond, and Connect processes evolve throughout the semester.

Visual Art 2/3: Bridging Artistic Development (Instructor - Elizabeth Wilson)
This transitional course is designed for students who have shown a strong aptitude in Visual Art 2 and are ready to prepare for Visual Art 3. This course will continue to build on the skills from Visual Art 2, with a stronger emphasis on independent work and advanced techniques. Students will be expected to use their art journals more robustly, to prepare them for the journaling expectations of Visual Art 3. This course will allow students to explore additional mixed-media techniques and help them develop a more mature critique of their own and others' work. Students will be

challenged to make deeper connections between their work, the work of other artists, and the world around them by actively reflecting on each stage of the Create, Present, Respond, and Connect process.

Visual Art 3: Advanced Artistic Expression (Instructor - Elizabeth Wilson)
Visual Art 3 empowers students to refine their artistic voice and master advanced techniques. Students will apply their knowledge of art fundamentals to create sophisticated works, demonstrating proficiency in critique and self-reflection. This course encourages risk-taking and experimentation with diverse styles and materials, including photography, mixed media, acrylic on canvas, encaustic painting, stencils/silk screen, and advanced clay work. Independent decision-making and strong work habits are essential. Students will maintain a detailed art journal for brainstorming, planning, and weekly assignments, using it as a daily tool for artistic development. This class requires students to demonstrate a sophisticated level of self-reflection, thoroughly documenting and analyzing their personal growth within the Create, Present, Respond, and Connect framework.

Music 1: Discovering Your Musical Voice (Beginner)
(Instructor - Judson Armstrong)
Embark on a joyful musical journey! This introductory class is designed for students with little to no prior musical experience. We'll focus on building a strong foundation in music through fun and engaging activities, learning to read basic notation, understanding rhythm, and exploring the fundamentals of playing an instrument. More importantly, we'll foster a supportive environment where you can gain self-confidence, overcome initial anxieties, and discover the joy of making music together, specifically through group play and collaboration on simple melodies and nursery rhymes. You'll learn essential skills like proper instrument handling, posture, producing clear tones, and playing a one-octave major scale while also exploring basic music theory like staff, clefs, and simple rhythms, and discovering historical musical contexts from ancient and Renaissance folk and art music. We will also begin learning the

basics of playing the Ukulele, a fun and easy-to-learn instrument that will help reinforce basic musical concepts.

Music 2: Expanding Your Musical Horizons (Intermediate)
(Instructor - Judson Armstrong)
Take your musical skills to the next level in this dynamic class! We'll build upon your existing knowledge of notation, rhythm, and instrumental technique while placing a strong emphasis on developing your ability to listen critically and perform confidently in a group setting, focusing on counting beats, identifying instruments, and maintaining a consistent rhythm within an ensemble. You'll expand your understanding of notation and rhythm with ledger lines, meter, and dotted/tied rhythms while refining your instrumental proficiency to play two-octave major scales and one-octave minor scales and exploring basic major/minor chords on guitar and piano. We'll also delve into music theory with half/whole steps, sharps, flats, and naturals, and explore the Romantic Era and 20th-century music, including the impact of immigration, all while performing basic melodies and tunes to build confidence.

Music 2/3: Bridging Musical Skills (Intermediate/Advanced)
(Instructor - Judson Armstrong)
This class bridges the gap between intermediate and advanced music studies. Building upon your foundation, you'll refine your listening skills, develop your ability to read and perform more complex musical notation, and delve deeper into music theory and history. You'll learn to identify melodic and harmonic instruments, describe melodic movement (like counterpoint and polyphony), and begin to recognize tonality (major, minor, atonal). You'll further explore concepts like meter, dotted and tied rhythms, and be introduced to syncopated rhythms and sixteenth notes. You'll also refine your instrumental technique, working towards stable technique and solid intonation, while gaining a deeper understanding of music theory through key signature identification and basic harmonic analysis. This class provides a challenging yet supportive environment for you to expand your musical horizons and prepare for the advanced concepts in Music 3, including performance in varied settings.

Music 3: Mastering Musical Expression (Advanced)
(Instructor - Judson Armstrong)
Refine your musical artistry in this advanced class that challenges and inspires. We'll delve into complex rhythms, advanced music theory, and sophisticated performance techniques while fostering a strong sense of ensemble and musical expression, enabling you to determine meter, identify melodic/harmonic instruments, describe melodic movement, and identify tonality. You'll become proficient in reading complex notation and rhythms and master advanced instrumental techniques like stable intonation and reading confidence in shifting/higher positions while also mastering music theory through scale spelling, key signatures, and harmonic analysis. Through performance in various concerts.

In all dance classes, safety is our top priority. We focus on physical, emotional, and social safety. It is at the forefront of our discussions throughout our learning at all levels of dance.

Dance 1: (Instructor - Denny Jo Rowe)
This introductory course focuses on building confidence and teamwork through creative play, improvisation, and the basic elements of dance. Students will explore movement and these elements through small-group explorations and choreography, with an emphasis on collaboration and becoming comfortable moving our bodies. This is also a time when we practice mini-showcases with our class and gain confidence performing in a safe environment. Additionally, each day we focus on the connection among mind, body, and breath through meditation and yoga.

Dance 2: (Instructor - Denny Jo Rowe)
Building upon Dance 1, this course delves deeper into dance technique and vocabulary, focusing on jazz and contemporary styles. Students will also be introduced to basic choreographic devices, expanding their creative voice in creating group choreography. We will also gain a

deeper understanding of the mind-body-breath connection through various daily warm-ups. In this class, we continue working on becoming comfortable performing in front of others, giving helpful, supportive feedback to one another, and participating in a collaborative performance with other level 2 arts for our school community.

Dance 2/3: (Instructor - Denny Jo Rowe)
This transitional course is designed for students who have shown a strong interest in Dance 2 and are ready to prepare for Dance 3, or who would like to continue exploring Dance in a slower-paced/more relaxed environment than Dance 3. This course will continue to build on Dance 2 skills, with a stronger emphasis on technique in contemporary and jazz styles, as well as choreographic devices. Additionally, we will continue discussions and practice with leadership roles within our dance community.

Dance 3: (Instructor - Denny Jo Rowe)
This advanced course challenges students to elevate their dance skills and voice through advanced technique, mind-body-breath connection, vocabulary, and choreography. Students will participate in an end-of-year dance concert, which they choreograph, costume, and light. Students in this class are positive leaders within our dance community, supportive of one another, motivated, and driven to improve their dance skills and expand their choreographic voice. We will also have a mid-year learning showcase, which highlights the learning we gained in our 1st semester, and will also perform in a couple of other school-wide dance celebrations.

Drama 1 (Fifth Grade): Introduction to Theatre (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
This introductory course focuses on building confidence and teamwork through creative drama. Between building puppets, filming a movie musical, and inventing original characters, we will dip into many types of theatre! Students will learn to tell stories using their voice, body, and facial

expressions through group performances. This course has in-class performances.

Drama 2 (Sixth Grade): Theatre Exploration (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
Building upon Drama 1, this course delves deeper into theatre arts, exploring scripted scenes, monologues, and ensemble pieces. Students will develop character, vocal projection, and stage presence, take creative risks, and participate in a class performance, with casting decisions prioritizing student growth and an inclusive environment. This course has after-school performances.

Drama 3 Conservatory (Seventh & Eighth Grade) (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
This advanced course challenges students to elevate their theatrical skills through advanced acting techniques, script analysis, and collaborative play creation. Students in this course will travel to Cedar City in October to participate in the Utah Shakespeare Festival's K-12 Competition. Students will explore complex characters and examine the social impact of theatre. This course has after-school performances.

Drama 3 Troupe (Seventh & Eighth Grade) (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
This advanced course challenges students to elevate their theatrical skills through advanced acting techniques, script analysis, and collaborative play creation. Students will explore complex characters and examine the social impact of theatre. This course mirrors Drama 3: Conservatory, but does not travel to competitions. This course has after-school performances.

Technical Theatre (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
Have you ever wondered how the magic happens backstage? Dive into technical theatre and unleash your inner stage wizard! We will go over

everything from stage makeup and costumes to programming sound and light cues. Get ready to power the production from behind the scenes, as we prepare technical elements for the after-school performances! This course does not have after-school requirements, though students may be invited to assist with lighting and sound operations for performances.

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Electives

7th and 8th Grade

PE 7/8 (Instructor - Ms Pioli)
In this PE class, we will play America's most popular sports: Soccer, Baseball, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, and Volleyball. This class will focus on play through friendly scrimmages and round-robin tournaments. Students signing up for PE should already have a basic knowledge of these sports. After a short review of the rules, positions, and skills, get ready to play.

7th Heath (Instructor - Ms Pioli)
7th-grade Health is full of discovery, research, discussion, and creative expression. This class is tailored to what is important and unique to teens in early adolescence. By understanding the changes taking place in adolescent brains and bodies, we will seek to address other key aspects of health, including nutrition, substance use prevention, risk-taking, resilience, mental health, sex education, goal setting, and more. One semester is required for all 7th graders.

Musical Theatre (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
5, 6, 7, 8! Have you dreamed of performing on Broadway, creating a flashy musical number, and singing epic harmonies? Come join us in Musical Theatre, where we will study Broadway classics and prepare a showcase of our favorites. This is a low-pressure way to explore singing, dancing, and acting. This course has in-class performances.

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Photography (Instructor - Kevin Lee)
Explore contemporary photography techniques and how to take better photos. We will learn about the history of the camera and how this invention has evolved into modern everyday life. This class will provide digital cameras and iPhones to explore composition, lighting, exposure, and editing. Students will create, edit, print, and share images.

Dungeon & Dragons (Instructor - Danielle Waters)
Learn the classic role-playing game of Dungeons & Dragons through this collaborative, fun, and engaging STEAM-inspired class. Students will study the history, mythology, lore, and game mechanics of D&D and have the opportunity to create a player and/or run a campaign as a Dungeon Master.

Behind the Scenes - Stage Arts/Tech Crew (Instructor -Lauren Carn)
Have you ever wondered how the magic happens backstage? Dive into tech crew and stage arts, and unleash your inner stage wizard! We'll tinker with sound, build epic sets, and design dazzling costumes, turning raw ideas into show-stopping spectacles. Get ready to power the production from behind the scenes!

Yearbook/Digital Arts 3 (Instructor - Jiggs)
In the first semester of DA 3, you will expand on what you learned with Jiggs in DA 2/3. In the second semester, you will develop and create our 24/25 SLARTS yearbook. Students in this class must be ready to meet deadlines as part of a team of motivated students and work together to create a memorable, inclusive yearbook full of SLARTS memories.

Technical Poster Design with Adobe (Instructor - Jiggs)
Unleash your inner designer and researcher! This course blends technical drawing, digital tools, and hands-on skills to create captivating informational posters. Dive deep into topics that ignite your curiosity, from fascinating scientific discoveries to historical events or artistic movements. Master the art of visual communication by combining precise

hand-drawn elements with dynamic digital layouts, all while conducting thorough research to make your posters informative and engaging.

Jammin' with Judson: String & Rhythm Ensembles (Instructor - Judson)
Get ready to make some noise and explore your musicality in "Jammin' with Judson"! This energetic class is designed for young musicians who love to create and collaborate. We'll delve into the fascinating world of string instruments, exploring how they can be utilized to craft powerful and intricate rhythms. From plucking and strumming to bowing and percussive techniques, we'll explore the diverse ways string instruments can bring out their rhythmic elements.
You'll form your music ensembles with your classmates, learning to listen to each other and blend your sounds. This isn't just about playing notes; it's about thinking creatively about music. We'll explore different rhythmic patterns, experiment with improvisation, and discover how to build dynamic and engaging musical pieces together. Judson will be right there with you, jamming along and helping you bring your musical ideas to life.

Art of the Natural World (Instructor - Danielle Waters)
Are you interested in nature as an inspiration for art? This explorative art class will use photography, paint, mixed media, collage, and naturally found objects to create original artworks. Our subject matter will focus on animals, plants, landscapes, and space. We will spend time outdoors immersed in the natural elements. We will gather outdoor materials like leaves, sticks, and rocks as art media, and we will also have an art-activist project about environmental stewardship.

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Word Play (Instructor - Kathleen Smith)

Language is fluid! Discover what this means while we play with words through games, poetry, fiction, journaling, and more. If you want to approach the blank page with some curiosity and maybe even some eagerness, rather than fear or frustration, then you'll be in a safe place to find your voice in your writing. Explore the world of words, discover poems you love, and have the time to create some fun writing pieces to express yourself and maybe even share with others!

Urban Exploration (Instructor - Mindy Cook)

"Urban Exploration" transforms students into city detectives, venturing beyond the classroom to uncover local secrets and develop crucial life skills. This hands-on elective fosters curiosity and leadership by planning and executing mini-field trips to parks, historical sites, and community hubs. Students will master executive functioning skills such as planning, problem-solving, and flexibility through real-world applications while also strengthening their connection to the community. By balancing classroom work with exciting explorations, participants will learn to prioritize and take initiative as they discover their city's vibrant heart.

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6th Grade

PE 5 & 6 (combined) (Instructor - Mr. Skeet or Ms. Pioli)
We will build on all the sports you learned and played in 5th grade. This is a fundamentals class where we focus on the skills of throwing, catching, hitting, kicking, and locomotion using a variety of sports and games. Some units you will recognize (like soccer, basketball, and yoga), others will be new (like lawn games, Quidditch, and netball). Expect lots of moving, sports, and games!

Musical Theatre (Instructor - Lauren Carn)
5, 6, 7, 8! Have you dreamed of performing on Broadway, creating a flashy musical number, and singing epic harmonies? Come join us in Musical Theatre, where we will study Broadway classics and prepare a showcase of our favorites. This is a low-pressure way to explore singing, dancing, and acting. This course has in-class performances.

Interior Design (Instructor - Jiggs)
Let's talk about the power of space, colors, furniture, and so much more. From learning how to use a measuring tape to seeing how different colors change the mood of a space, we will explore the power of design.

Photography (Instructor - Kevin Lee)
Explore contemporary photography techniques and how to take better photos. We will learn about the history of the camera and how this invention has evolved into modern everyday life. This class will provide digital cameras and iPhones to explore composition, lighting, exposure, and editing. Students will create, edit, print, and share images.

Word Play (Instructor - Kathleen Ferdon)
Language is fluid! Discover what this means while we play with words. Discover various styles of poetry. Create and explore all sorts of

story-making. This class is for students who want more time for creative writing, love exploring the world of words, and want to develop their craft while discovering more poems and stories to love.

Art of the Natural World (Instructor - Danielle Waters)
Are you interested in nature as an inspiration for art? This explorative art class will use photography, paint, mixed media, collage, and naturally found objects to create original artworks. Our subject matter will focus on animals, plants, landscapes, and space. We will spend time outdoors immersed in the natural elements. We will gather outdoor materials like leaves, sticks, and rocks as art media, and we will also have an art-activist project about environmental stewardship.

Dungeon & Dragons (Instructor - Danielle Waters)
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Teacher's Aide (Instructor - by permission)

The Teacher's Aide elective is designed for responsible, proactive students interested in the behind-the-scenes world of education and classroom management. Working directly under the mentorship of a faculty member, aides provide essential instructional and clerical support. Responsibilities include organizing classroom materials, assisting with setting up labs or creative projects, and helping maintain an efficient learning environment. This role is ideal for students looking to develop their communication skills, practice professional reliability, and gain a firsthand perspective on the teaching profession.

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Office Aide (Instructor - by permission)

The Office Aide course offers students a unique opportunity to serve as the face of the school while developing high-level administrative and interpersonal skills. Operating in the main office or counseling suite, aides support the school's daily operations by managing deliveries, assisting with clerical tasks, and greeting visitors and staff. This position emphasizes confidentiality, professional etiquette, and problem-solving in a fast-paced environment. It is an excellent choice for students who want to build a strong resume, improve their organizational habits, and contribute to the positive culture of the school community.

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Humanities

Humanities 5 & 6 English Language Arts (ELA)
Humanities 5 & 6 Social Studies (SS) (Instructors - Kevin Lee, Karen Lynne, Deanna Sarmento, Heather Blakley)

Humanities integrates English Language Arts with Social Studies and includes reading literature and informational texts, writing in a variety of genres, and speaking and listening (including presentations, plays, projects, historical simulations, and games).

In Social Studies, we study how the past influences the present, including:
• The role of geography, religion, government, and technology in human history
• The rise, fall, and influence of ancient civilizations (YEAR A)
• The transformation of cultures during the Middle Ages and Renaissance (YEAR B)

Humanities 7 & 8 English Language Arts (ELA)
Humanities 7 & 8 Social Studies (SS) (Instructors - Jason Call, Nancy Hoodes, Lindsay Bayles, Karin Fenn)

These Humanities courses offer a critical exploration of the diverse people, social and political institutions, and cultures shaping the history and evolving identity of Utah and the United States, extending to a broader examination of global past and present societies, ideas, economies, and artistic expressions. Integrating Social Studies and Language Arts, the curriculum involves analyzing diverse literature to understand its artistry and its impact on writing skills. Students will engage with various primary and secondary sources, including textual and digital media, guided by the National Society for History Education's History Habits of Mind, to uncover and reflect upon complex histories. The courses cultivate empathy and critical thinking skills regarding historical contexts and students' roles.

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Science

Science 5 & Digital Learning (Instructor - Ingrid Martinez)
This combined fifth-grade course integrates science and digital learning, empowering students to explore and understand the world around them. Aligned with Utah's SEEd Standards, the **science** curriculum focuses on analyzing Earth's systems, investigating matter, and grasping energy flow. Students will cultivate essential skills in data interpretation, scientific explanation, and problem-solving, preparing them to tackle real-world challenges.
The **digital learning** component develops fundamental computing skills, including website navigation, digital communication, and online safety awareness. Students will achieve keyboarding proficiency and learn to use technology responsibly and ethically. Furthermore, hands-on STEM exploration with LEGO Spike will provide practical application of digital literacy, fostering creative problem-solving and innovation.

Science 6 (Instructor - Jake Pasko)
Students will delve into the fundamental principles of astronomy, energy, Earth science, and ecology. Students will explore the structure and motion of celestial bodies, the properties of matter and energy, Earth's weather and climate, and the dynamics of ecosystems.

Science 7 (Instructor - Jeremy Theriot)
Students will explore various scientific concepts, including physics, earth science, life science, and genetics. They will conduct experiments and learn about forces, the Earth's structure and processes, the human body, and genetics. The course will also focus on developing skills such as collaboration, communication, and time management.

Science 8 (Instructor - Michael Clark)
The Utah 8th-grade SEEd standards focus on the interactions between matter and energy in nature. Students will learn about concepts from chemistry, physics, biology, and geology through a variety of activities,

including experiments, projects, field trips, reading, writing, discussions, drawing, singing, performing, watching videos, using apps, and playing games. The goal is for students to actively engage in learning and have a fun experience.

Maths

Math 5 (Instructors: Mei Nagata-Brown)
The key element of 5th-grade math is to focus on conceptual understanding rather than memorization, and to promote critical thinking, reasoning, communication, and perseverance. Bridges for Mathematics is a comprehensive curriculum designed to foster a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build problem-solving skills, and promote a growth mindset. The program emphasizes the problem-solving process and encourages students to discuss their strategies and analyze their thinking.

Math 6 (Instructors: Melissa Hollingshaus)
CPM Inspiring Connections for 6th grade is a middle school math curriculum designed to foster deep mathematical understanding through a problem-based approach, encouraging collaboration and critical thinking, where students explore connections between various math concepts by engaging in rich tasks, while emphasizing real-world applications and building number sense, all within a student-centered learning environment with a focus on communication and justification of their reasoning; it incorporates digital components alongside traditional print materials to enhance learning experiences.

Math 7 (Instructors - Dan Armstrong, Sarah Gronlund)
CPM Inspiring Connections for 7th grade makes math engaging by having students work together to solve problems. This curriculum helps them understand key 7th-grade concepts like ratios, percentages, and equations, and applies these ideas to real-world situations. It uses printed materials and digital tools to develop critical thinking and number sense,

all within a student-centered learning environment that emphasizes communication and the justification of reasoning. It incorporates digital components alongside traditional print materials to enhance learning experiences.

Math 8 (Instructor - Nate Christensen)
CPM Inspiring Connections for 8th grade is a math curriculum that uses problem-solving and teamwork to help students master key concepts like linear equations, ratios, and geometry. Students work together in diverse groups, using both digital and print resources, to connect math to real-world situations and develop strong reasoning and communication skills.

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Salt Lake Arts Academy's mission is to prepare students to become confident and creative builders of their future, equipped through the arts and academics to take responsibility for shaping their communities.