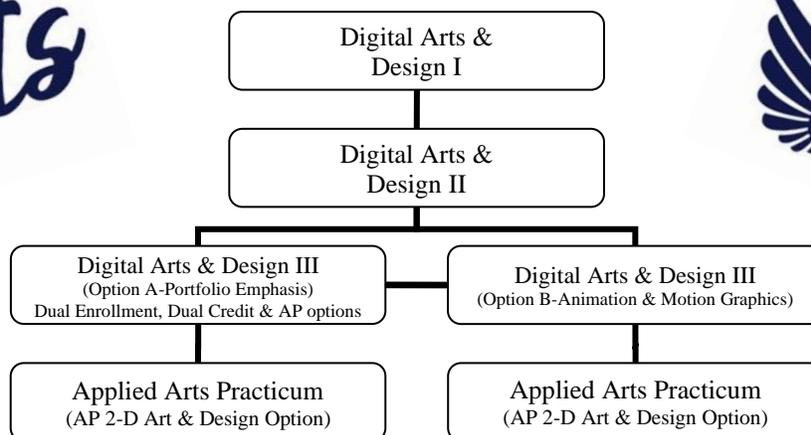


# Digital Arts & Design Pathway

2022-2023 Program of Study



**Main Topics Covered in Courses:** Graphic Design, Photography, Computer Art & Illustration, Animation, Motion Graphics, Digital Imaging, Interactive Design, Web Design, Product Creation (Vinyl, Laser Cut & 3D Printed Designs), Portfolio Creation, Professional Skills

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Digital Arts & Design I** is the introductory course for students interested in the digital art, photography and design professions. Students will develop a strong understanding of the principles and elements of design and the design process. Hands-on projects provide extensive opportunities that focus on actual design and photography assignments. A state-of-the-art computer lab is provided with iMacs using up-to-date Adobe software. There is an emphasis on employability skills, leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that encourages higher-order thinking. Basic skills will be introduced in interactive design and animation if time permits. **This course may count as a fine arts credit upon completion of a three-course focus in the Digital Arts & Design program of study. Grade level: 9-11**

**Digital Arts & Design II** is a course that builds on skills and knowledge acquired in the introductory Digital Arts & Design I course. Upon completion of this course, proficient students will be able to perform more advanced software and lighting operations to create photographs, illustrations, and various types of designs of increasing complexity. As they develop their knowledge and skill, students work toward developing a professional portfolio, which they will carry with them throughout the full sequence of courses. Upon completion of this course, students have the option of acquiring Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) certification, which validates basic, entry-level skills in digital communications using Adobe software. **Grade level: 10-12**

**Digital Arts & Design III (Portfolio)** is the third course in the Digital Arts & Design program of study. Students at this level may choose to focus on photography or a particular field in design or animation. Applying design skills developed in prior courses, students will expand their creative and critical thinking skills to create comprehensive projects in design, photography, illustration, interactive design, multimedia and three-dimensional design. Students will utilize research techniques to plan and enhance project outcomes. Standards in this course also include professionalism and ethics, career exploration, and business and project management. With advanced knowledge and skill, students continue to develop a professional portfolio. Upon completion of this course students have the option of acquiring Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) certification, which validates basic, entry-level skills in digital communications using Adobe software. **Students in this course may also choose to submit a portfolio for AP Art & Design credit. Students at IHS may choose to take this course as Dual Enrollment Credit through MTSU and/or Dual Credit through Nossi and CSCC. Grade level: 11-12**

**Digital Arts & Design III (Animation & Motion Graphics)** is another option for the third course in the Digital Arts & Design program of study. Applying design skills developed in prior courses, students will expand their creative and critical thinking skills to create comprehensive animation and motion graphics projects. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to use industry-standard software to create three-dimensional models, animations, and motion graphics. Students will utilize research techniques to plan and enhance project outcomes. Standards in this course also include professionalism and ethics, career exploration, and business and project management. With increasing knowledge and skill, students continue working toward developing a professional portfolio. **11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may take this course without prerequisites with teacher approval. Grade level: 11-12**

**The Applied Arts Practicum** is a capstone course intended to provide students with the opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge learned in previous Arts, A/V Technology & Communications courses within a professional, working environment. In addition to developing an understanding of the professional and ethical issues encountered by professionals in these careers, students learn to refine their skills in problem solving, research, communication, teamwork, and project management in the completion of a course-long project. The course is highly customizable to meet local system needs: instruction may be delivered through school laboratory training or through work-based learning arrangements such as internships, cooperative education, service learning, mentoring, and job shadowing. Upon completion of the practicum, students will be prepared to pursue further study in arts, a/v technology, and communications fields or seek additional training and employment with the aid of a portfolio documenting student work completed throughout high school. Upon completion of this course students have the option of acquiring Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) certification, which validates basic, entry-level skills in digital communications using Adobe software. **Students in this course may also choose to submit a portfolio for AP Art & Design credit. Grade level: 12**

## UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

- \* Taking 3 complete credits in the Digital Arts & Design pathway also satisfies the Fine Art Credit for graduation requirements.
- \* Students that meet the requirements for admission have the option to take the DAD III course thru MTSU as Dual Enrollment in PHOTO 1050. The credit could be free of charge if Grant specifications are applied for and met. If not attending MTSU upon graduation, the credit can transfer as elective credit to most post-secondary institutions. In other words, this is a FREE 3-hour Elective Credit you could do during high school!
- \* Students have the option to earn AP credit by submitting a 2-D Art & Design portfolio. Please refer to the separate syllabus if you are interested in this option. Like all AP tests, there is a fee to be paid by the student in the Fall Semester. Students will compile work and submit the portfolio the first week of May.
- \* While in the Digital Arts program, students have opportunities to use the following equipment and materials: iMac, Adobe Creative Cloud, Wacom tablets, Cintiq, specialty printers, dark room, scanner, studio lighting, professional grade digital cameras and lenses, drones, vinyl cutter, laser cutter and 3-D printer.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- \* Students are encouraged to participate in many competitions and apply for scholarships. Many have received awards and scholarships for their great work and portfolios – for example, Digital Art students have won American Vision, Gold and Silver Medals at the national level in the Scholastic Art & Writing Competition! We have also had many regional Gold & Silver Key and Honorable Mention awards these last 15 years. Student work has been awarded and exhibited at the Verve Show, Middle Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, MTSU's Blue Spark Awards, the Superintendent's Show at the Frist, The Art Institute's annual calendar, Tennessee Magazine, the Institute for CTE Educators program, Night of the Arts at Independence, and Williamson County's Academic Calendar.
- \* Students leave the program with a professional portfolio. Students use the work to receive scholarships from colleges. For example, former students were granted large scholarships to The School of Visual Arts, O'More College of Art & Design, Watkins College of Art & Design, SCAD, and The Art Institute-KC. These portfolios also help students get jobs – Jason's Deli hired a student to shoot photos for the Cool Springs store based on his portfolio. The student's photos are still displayed there today!
- \* Students have been provided internships and shadowing opportunities with local companies like Birdsong Creative and Nordstrom.
- \* Students participate in the SkillsUSA Advertising Design and Photography competitions (we have had many State Champions and two National top 10 photographers!)
- \* Students have designed Williamson County's Employee of the Year program and the Independence High School student agenda.
- \* 30 students have submitted AP 2D-Design Portfolios in the last 6 years and ALL received high scores!
- \* Over 100 students have participated in Dual Enrollment through MTSU in the last 6 years and have received 3 free college credits.
- \* Aside from working as freelance artists, former Indy Digital Arts & Design students and recent college graduates are working in the industry at companies such as The Rudy Project, Interscope Records, VML Advertising, and The Daily Mail.