



## THE MCPS VISUAL ART CENTER

### **PROGRAM**

The MCPS Visual Art Center was established over twenty years ago. The program is located in the art facilities at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, Maryland. The primary goal of this countywide program is to provide an intensive honors level curriculum in visual art with an emphasis on two-dimensional processes with a strong foundation in art history. An important outcome of the program is the assembly of a strong portfolio for advanced placement, college reviews, and scholarship applications. Studies include drawing, painting, and printmaking. Lessons consist of lectures, demonstrations, digital slide presentations, studio activities, assigned research, group critiques, and gallery visits. Students will also have the opportunity to study commercial art, computer graphics, and sculptural techniques. There is a lab fee each semester.

### **BENEFITS**

A rigorous and comprehensive program directed toward portfolio development will help students realize and achieve their full potential in the field of visual art. Visual Art Center students develop a broader perspective of the fine arts and a better understanding for opportunities in art careers. Most graduating students go on to study fine art or related fields at a higher level. More than two thirds of graduates have won awards or scholarships to some of the country's most prestigious schools. All students become better informed and prepared to make career decisions that may involve art. Experience in a variety of art mediums and exposure to the thoughts and ideas of peers are vital aspects of the Visual Art Center.

### **ACTIVITIES**

Qualifying high school students may attend the Visual Art Center any semester and during the summer. Three different sessions are offered daily between 7:25 AM and 2:10 PM. The Visual Art Center program is designed to meet the needs of talented students. Although the students will be part of a group, classes are small enough for individualized instruction. Activities include: demonstrations, seminars, lectures, concentrated study, work in a variety of mediums, field study, observations, group and individual critiques, exhibitions, career counseling, advanced placement exams, scholarship competitions, college presentations and portfolio reviews.

### **ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM IS COMPETITIVELY BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Previous art courses
- Portfolio
- Personal interview
- Teacher recommendations
- Scholastic achievement

### **INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD:**

- Contact your school counselor to review graduation requirements

- Talk to your parents about the program and arrange for transportation
- Call the Visual Art Center at 301-962-1027 to arrange an appointment for a visit.
- Organize your present portfolio for your interview (slides or photos of large pieces may be included).
- Fill out application with signatures from your parent or guardian, your art teacher and your principal.
- If accepted, return to your counselor to arrange a schedule.

**NOTE:** Accepted Visual Art Center students may choose to transfer to host school and complete graduation requirements.