SELWYN SCHOOL

Selwyn Fine Arts Academy

Curriculum Guide

2023-2024

Selwyn Fine Arts Academy

2023-2024 / Curriculum Guide

Introduction to The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy 3

Selwyn Fine Arts Academy Graduation Requirements 5

The Selwyn Music Academy Schedule 6

The Selwyn Visual Arts Academy Schedule 8

Course Catalog

- Music Academy 9
- Visual Arts Academy 11

Introduction to the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy

The Selwyn School

Selwyn is an independent, non-sectarian, college-preparatory day school serving pre-kindergarten through grade twelve students. A member of the National Association of Independent Schools, Selwyn provides the most thoroughly individualized, comprehensive and developmentally appropriate array of student-focused experiences in North Texas. Our students grow into independent thinkers and creative problem-solvers who are highly resilient and emotionally intelligent leaders prepared for effective citizenship in a global society.

At Selwyn School, our mission is to cultivate global citizens who embrace complex challenges with empathetic and innovative thinking that advances the human condition. Our vision is to elevate the human experience by encouraging whole child development through high academic standards and age appropriate challenges that foster creative problem-solving, emotional intelligence, and social responsibility from which world leaders emerge.

Selwyn is About Inclusion

Selwyn School's mission promotes a school culture that allows students to learn without fear of intimidation or discrimination. Because of our school's global focus and diverse student, family, and faculty body, Selwyn School is committed in policy, principle, and practice to maintaining an environment that encourages behavior affirming of the equality of all persons. Selwyn School remains committed to providing a welcoming and respectful work and educational environment, in which all individuals within the school community may benefit from each other's experiences and foster mutual respect and appreciation of divergent views.

Selwyn School will not tolerate conduct that violates rights guaranteed by the law or by other school policies. As such, Selwyn School prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, national origin, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under state or federal law in any aspect of the administration of its educational programs, including admission and financial aid, or in employment and application for employment. Furthermore, Selwyn School policy includes prohibitions of harassment of students and employees, including racial harassment, sexual harassment, or retaliation for filing complaints of discrimination. Above all, Selwyn School affirms the fundamental dignity of all persons.

The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy

The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy offers students the time and space to pursue an individualized, four-year long study of music or visual art taught by classically trained subject-area specialists. Whether a student wants to develop her passion for music or photography, the Fine Arts Academy pays special attention to each child's unique talents and skills and develops them into refined abilities. Students graduating from the Fine Arts Academy will have the same excellent academic pedigree as other students at Selwyn—enjoying the benefits of Outdoor Education, the Perspectives Travel Program, and all of the privileges that the other students experience. The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy enhances this educational experience with in-depth courses related to the student's artistic or musical interests. The dynamic Fine Arts Academy offers students unparalleled access to artistic and musical resources throughout their day. Each student will develop skills in the fine arts that will carry over into all aspects of their lives: they

will build stronger connections to world cultures, will develop tenacity and grit as they learn to master their crafts, and will acquire an understanding of the connections between the arts and sciences. Importantly, they will develop these skills regardless of whether they ultimately choose to pursue a degree in fine art. Designed specifically with artistically inclined students in mind, the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy is built to nurture the talents of each student in ways few other programs can.

Students in the Music Academy will receive thirty minutes of private, individual instruction in their instrument of choice from adjunct instructors who are degreed musicians and specialists in their instruments. Music Academy students will play in the Piano Lab, learn advanced music theory and musical notation, and will gain significant solo and ensemble performance experience. Students who graduate from the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy will have developed the skills necessary to audition at the most competitive music programs in the country—including the one in our own backyard at the University of North Texas.

Similarly, students in the Visual Arts Academy will learn the concepts of two- and three-dimensional art, and will learn to express themselves through photography, ceramics, sculpture, painting, jewelry-making, drawing, and graphic design. This depth and breadth of experience will allow all students in the Visual Arts Academy to curate a well-rounded portfolio as they apply to the art schools of their choice. Learning from experienced artists on Selwyn's campus and from within our community make this arts program one-of-its-kind in North Texas.

The Selwyn Fine Arts Academy provides a distinguished arts education without sacrificing the core foundational excellence our community has come to expect of Selwyn. The Music Academy and Visual Arts Academy enhance the value of that education by providing unmatched access to trained artists and musicians during the school day. The Fine Arts Academy allows students to flourish in the classroom, on the stage, or in the studio—but above all, the Academy offers a way for students to find their voice. With it, they can change the world.

Academy Graduation Requirements

Upper School Education

Selwyn's Upper School education is academically challenging and student-driven so that the unique talents and interests of the students can emerge and a path toward realizing their potential is illuminated. In these four years, students enjoy the opportunity to explore their passions and deepen their knowledge of their chosen subjects. In addition to the core Upper School curriculum, Upper Schoolers may take challenging math, science, literature, and social studies electives such as World Religions, Creative Writing, and The Science of Vector-Borne Diseases.

College Admissions Requirements

Selwyn ensures that our graduation requirements satisfy the requirements of the breadth of local and national colleges and universities. Faculty advisors guide the students through the college admissions process and ensure that all requirements are met and that students are able to apply to their institution of choice.

Selwyn Fine Arts Academy Graduation Requirements

Ordinarily, students must complete a minimum of twenty-six (26) credits during grades 9-12 in order to meet the graduation requirements at Selwyn. To graduate from Selwyn with a diploma with a Distinction in Fine Arts, students must earn eight (8) credits from the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy, with a concentration either in Music or Visual Arts. A course taken for one semester is 0.5 credits. A course taken for one year 1.0 credit. Students in the Fine Arts Academy are expected to take 7 classes per semester.

Below is a description of the credits required in each discipline for the Selwyn Fine Arts Academy, including the core courses required for college admissions:

Fine Arts	8 credits
English	4 credits
Mathematics	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
World Language	2 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Technology	0.5 credits

The Music Academy

Students enrolled in the Music Academy receive half an hour of private voice or instrument instruction from adjunct instructors each week. Immersive classes teach the fundamentals of music theory, history, ensemble skills, and musicianship. Students graduate from the Selwyn Music Academy with a strong understanding of composition and solo and ensemble performance, and they leave as musicians prepared for any music school in the country. An ordinary schedule may look like the following:

Typical Freshman Year

Human Geography
Biology
Geometry
Spanish I
English I
Foundations of Music Theory (Semester) / Piano I (Semester)
Music Ensemble I
Private Lesson I

Typical Sophomore Year

World History
Chemistry
Algebra II
Spanish II
English II
Piano II (Semester) / Music History (Semester)
Music Ensemble II
Private Lesson II

Typical Junior Year

US History
Physics
Mathematics Elective
English III
Health (Semester) / Technology (Semester)
Music Theory (Semester) / Music Elective (Semester)
Music Ensemble III
Private Lesson III

Typical Senior Year

Government (Semester) / Economics (Semester)
Science Elective
English IV
Health and Wellness
Music Elective (Semester) / Music Elective (Semester)
Music Ensemble IV
Private Lesson IV
Senior Recital

Music Electives Include

AP Music Theory
History of Rock
Music History: Baroque and Classical
Music History: Romantic and Modern
Piano III
Ukulele

The Visual Arts Academy

Students enrolled in the Visual Arts Academy learn intermediate and advanced techniques in studios that cover a broad range of media. Immersive classes teach the foundations of art, design, and composition. Students completing the Selwyn Visual Arts Academy will gain a strong understanding of their chosen media and will graduate with a portfolio of art that is competitive with the nation's best art schools. An ordinary schedule may look like the following:

Typical Freshman Year

Human Geography
Biology
Geometry
Spanish I
English I
Introduction to Studios
Foundations of Art (Semester) / Drawing I (Semester)

Typical Sophomore Year

World History
Chemistry
Algebra II
Spanish II
English II
Painting I (Semester) / Introduction to Photoshop and Illustrator (Semester)
Sculpture and Ceramics I (Semester) / Photography I (Semester)

Typical Junior Year

US History
Physics
Mathematics Elective
English III
Health (Semester) / Technology (Semester)
Art History
Choice of Technique Class

Typical Senior Year

Government (Semester) / Economics (Semester)
Science Elective
English IV
Health and Wellness
Choice of Technique Class
Senior Thesis

Art Studios Include

Introduction to Photoshop and Illustrator
Painting I
Photography I
Sculpture & Ceramics I
Foundations of Art
Drawing I

Technique Classes Include

Drawing II
Graphic Design
Textiles
Painting II
Printmaking
Film Production
Experimental Methods in Drawing & Painting

Music Academy Course Catalog

AP Music Theory (1.0 credit)

This course teaches students to learn to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music. Students develop skills by listening to, reading, writing, and performing a wide variety of music. Students will learn identifying features of pitch, interval, scales and keys, chords, meter, rhythm, and other musical concepts in performed and notated music.

Foundations of Music Theory (0.5 credits)

Foundations of Music Theory is an entry level music theory course that covers basic written theory. This course is designed to provide a thorough introduction to harmony and notational skills. Students will become familiar with the terms, symbols, and common practices that provide the foundation for the musical language.

History of Rock (0.5 credits)

This course presents the history of rock music from the 1950s to the present. Beginning with its roots in rhythm and blues, country and western, and commercial pop, this course examines diverse musical styles, artists and bands, as well as the many historical, technological, and cultural factors that have contributed to the rise and popularity of rock music.

Music Ensemble (0.5 credits)

Students will develop performance, ensemble, and musicianship training and skills in a group setting. The Ensemble performs music in a wide variety of styles, from early Classical music to music composed within the last few years.

Music History: Baroque and Classical (0.5 credits)

This course provides an exploration and survey of the Baroque and Classical periods with study of styles, composers, works, music theory, performance practices, and cultural and intellectual history of Western art music. Students will apply research and library skills through written assignments, as well as musical and theoretical skills gained in lower division music systems and theory classes in analytical assignments.

Music History: Romantic and Modern (0.5 credits)

This course surveys music history from the early nineteenth century to the present, considering major styles, genres, and techniques of musical composition from a historical and analytical perspective. Students will study composers and prominent movements in Western and World music from the early nineteenth century through contemporary times.

Music Theory (0.5 credits)

This course provides skills beyond basic music theory by preparing students for college- and AP-level theory courses. This course is intended for students who have previously taken Foundations of Music Theory or who have placed into the course.

Piano I (0.5 credits)

This course develops basic piano skills. Intended for students with little or no piano background, this course teaches fundamentals of playing the piano. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. Students will also learn more on musical notation and theory.

Piano II (0.5 credits)

Piano II provides keyboard instruction to students who have taken Piano I. Students will practice daily on keyboards in the Piano Lab. Students will also advance in their understanding of music theory, chords, scales and arpeggios. Students who are studying privately may also practice the repertoire their private teacher has assigned.

Piano III (0.5 credits)

A continuation of Piano II, the Piano III course offers advanced piano instruction. Students will practice daily on keyboards in the Piano Lab and will learn advanced piano techniques while building upon skills developed in previous courses. Students who are studying privately may also practice the repertoire their private teacher has assigned.

Private Lesson (0 credits)

This course provides students with one-on-one voice or instrument-specific lessons for thirty minutes each week. Adjunct instructors, who are degreed musicians and who are specialists in their instrument, have partnered with Selwyn to offer high-quality, individualized private lessons.

Senior Recital (0 credits)

All Senior music students must perform a Senior recital that showcases their solo and ensemble skills. The Recital is required for the Fine Arts Diploma Distinction.

Survey of Music History (0.5 credits)

This is an introductory course within the context of the liberal arts, offering a history of the Western art music tradition from early times to the present, with an introduction to major composers, styles, and representative works. Music will be discussed with historical perspective providing a thorough understanding and the ability to define and describe terms, elements and characteristics of music.

Ukulele I (0.5 credits)

This course introduces students to the ukulele. Serving as an overview to the instrument's style, this course will focus on strumming and rhythms, improvising, reading music, and beginning songwriting.

Visual Arts Academy Course Catalog

Art History I (0.5 credits)

This course surveys cultural and artistic themes from a global perspective from Prehistory through the end of the Classical periods of Europe, East Asia, North Africa, and the Americas. It examines the use of painting, sculpture, architecture, and decorative arts as a source of historic evidence. Students will have the opportunity to follow techniques used by the artists throughout the periods studied as a method of research. Some mature subject matter will be discussed in this class.

Art History II (0.5 credits)

This course surveys cultural and artistic themes from a global perspective from the Renaissance to present. It examines the use of painting, sculpture, architecture, and decorative arts as a source of historic evidence. Students will have the opportunity to follow techniques used by the artists throughout the periods studied as a method of research. Major movements covered will include Realism, Romanticism, Impressionism, the Avant-Garde, Modernism, and contemporary art. Some mature subject matter will be discussed in this class.

Drawing I (0.5 credits)

This course focuses on the development of observational skills and drawing techniques, employing a wide range of drawing media and subject matter. This course covers the fundamentals of drawing and gives consideration of line, space, form, and perspective in rendering from still life or landscape. Emphasis on composition and development of hand-eye coordination. Students in this course will develop both technical abilities and creative responses to material and subject matter. Critiques, discussions, and readings on contemporary topics in drawing are integrated into course assignments and assessment.

Drawing II (0.5 credits)

Drawing II strengthens techniques developed in Drawing I. This course reinforces basic drawing skills and introduces additional drawing media and techniques. Emphasis is placed on the development of expressive and conceptual capabilities. This course's primary focus is on faces and the human form.

Experimental Methods in Drawing and Painting (0.5 credits)

This technique course focuses on process-based methods for a students' creative practice. These processes will encourage a high level of creativity and teach students a more conceptual view of art making in order to push concept and craft. This class will emphasize drawing and painting techniques learned in the Art Studio classes, while also encouraging various approaches that break the "norm."

Film Production (0.5 credits)

This technique course can be chosen by Fine Arts Academy students to be taken in tandem with the General Fine Arts elective. In this course, students learn the process of filmmaking

from pre-production planning, through filming, to post-production editing. Students also learn to incorporate sound design to put the finishing touches on their own short film.

Foundations of Art (0.5 credits)

This course teaches students the fundamental principles of two- and three-dimensional visual arts and design. The course teaches the elements of art and principles of design inherent in all Selwyn Visual Arts Academy courses. Designed to provide a foundation for the upper-level visual arts courses, Foundations of Art encourages students to develop and advance in the expression of a personal style in visual communication.

Graphic Design (0.5 credits)

This course provides students with a study of design for web and print with an emphasis on the visual communication design process. Topics will include basic terminology and graphic design principles, as well as an introduction to the fundamentals of design that lead to the discovery and comprehension of the visual language. Typography, layout, and concept development are a major focus. Various media will be used. This studio course provides a foundation for advanced courses in design.

Introduction to Photoshop and Illustrator (0.5 credits)

This course introduces students to the robust set of professional-grade, industry standard software tools available in Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. An in-depth studio, the Introduction to Photoshop and Illustrator teaches key techniques in these programs, and challenges students to complete projects related to photo editing, illustrations, and digital design.

Introduction to Studios I (0.5 credits)

This course introduces students to studio vocabulary, safety, and basic techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Each student will have the opportunity to choose one studio for an extra week of emphasis.

Introduction to Studios II (0.5 credits)

This course builds upon concepts introduced to students in Introduction to Studios I, and continues to develop studio vocabulary, safety, and basic techniques in drawing, painting, and sculpture. Each student will have the opportunity to choose one studio for an extra week of emphasis.

Painting I (0.5 credits)

This course offers an introduction to the fundamentals of painting. Exploration of traditional and contemporary techniques and methodologies through a variety of subjects including imagination, still life, self-portrait, landscape, and the figure. Students will be introduced to gouache and acrylic paints.

Painting II (0.5 credits)

Building upon the principles of Painting I, this course aims to develop the painting skills, techniques, and aesthetic sensibilities related to artistic expression in ink, acrylic, and oil. Students will have the opportunity to learn figure and portrait painting techniques as well as plein-air painting with oils.

Photography (0.5 credits)

Focusing on core photographic concepts as well as more advanced techniques, this course includes hands-on demonstrations with cameras as well as digital image editing techniques. This studio covers basic concepts and practice of digital photography, including understanding and use of the camera, lenses, and other basic photographic equipment. The course will address aesthetic principles as they relate to composition, space, exposure, light, and color. Students will also learn how to edit photos with Adobe Lightroom.

Printmaking (0.5 credits)

This technique course introduces a range of printmaking methods including relief, monotype, and basic silkscreen printing processes. Printmaking is varied, repeatable and tactile, with images printed as unique works, as multiples, or as variations, using an array of processes. Concepts of drawing, design, color, layering, mark, and space are emphasized. These skills support the production of independent work within the context of contemporary art and design. Students will build on process, experiment with print media, and think creatively and critically.

Sculpture & Ceramics (0.5 credits)

This course provides an introductory exposure to the history of ceramics and sculpture. A beginning level experience in the use of clay and other sculpture-based materials will be taught. Forming techniques, surface development and glazing, and kiln-firing practices will be introduced. Both the functional and sculptural ceramic traditions will be explored.

Senior Show (0 credits)

All Senior visual arts students must showcase their art during a Senior show that demonstrates their mastery of their chosen media. The Senior Show is required for the Fine Arts Diploma Distinction.

Senior Thesis (1.0 credit)

Students will develop a thesis idea for their Senior Show at the end of the school year. Students will complete college applications and research professional opportunities and internships. Supplementary work needed to enhance any areas of the portfolio will be worked on in this class during open studio time.

Textiles (0.5 credits)

While in this technique course, students will learn about both historic and contemporary textile arts. Techniques in hand sewing, machine sewing, weaving, and dyeing will be practiced through this semester long course. These skills will emphasize the study of textile sculpture or

installation and briefly discuss fashion design based on student interest. Students will have the opportunity to choose either an installation or fashion-based piece to complete at the end of the semester.

SELWYN
SCHOOL
SELWYNSCHOOL.ORG / 940-382-6771 / ADMISSIONS@SELWYNSCHOOL.COM
2270 COPPER CANYON ROAD ARGYLE, TX 76226