

Specific advice for students planning to attend Art School and study art

If you are hoping to attend Art School there are some specific things you should do in your high school years to be as prepared as possible.

- **Start Early:** ideally you should start your college application process a little earlier than many of your classmates - during the tenth grade, so that you can really take advantage of opportunities to develop your portfolio and artistic preparation.

- **Get Feedback on Your Work:**

Attend National Portfolio Day and open days at local art colleges and schools. These are opportunities to meet with school representatives, have them comment on your work and to see what other students are preparing. Attend national portfolio day as early in the process as possible (even freshman year) to get a sense of what you need to do. Attend Open Days at the College for Creative Studies (CCS), Kendall College or other art schools to gather ideas, listen to appropriate presentations, and begin to build your portfolio. See portfolioday.net for information on national portfolio day.

Attend College Day with the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. This is an opportunity to meet with Colleges and Art programs to share your portfolio. This is a smaller event than National Portfolio Day and you will have more opportunity to talk with the admissions representatives. See <https://bbartcenter.org/bbac/college-day> for more information.

Visit artists and talk with them about their work. Use your family for connections and don't be afraid to make connections with artists whose work interests you.

Do your Eleventh Grade internship with an artist - and arrange it so that you can share your work with them and get their feedback and support

- **Enter Competitions and Show Your Work:**

Scholastic Arts Competition : <http://www.artandwriting.org/what-we-do/>

Wayne State Art Competition: <https://art.wayne.edu/>

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association : <https://bbartcenter.org/>

Michigan AfterSchool Association Art Competition: <http://www.miafterschoolassociation.org/>

- **Develop Your Skills:**

Taking classes and attending camps will allow you to expand your skills and explore new areas of art. These are often expensive, but many offer scholarships if you apply early.

Interlochen Arts Camp: <http://camp.interlochen.org/>

Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan: <http://stamps.umich.edu/pre-college>

College for Creative Studies, Detroit: <http://www.collegeforcreativestudies.edu/academics/ce/youth-programs>

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp: <https://bluelake.org/>

- **Create the Best Possible Portfolio!**

Make sure that if you are applying to an Art School that your portfolio is of the highest quality in terms of pictures, layout, design and appearance. You need to show your aesthetic sense through the portfolio, as well as in the work included in your portfolio. Make sure that your art portfolio includes art created in your own time and with your own particular “voice” - and is not just made up of school assignment art.

An art portfolio for Art School should include:

A. Work to meet the requirements of the school you hope to attend - do research early in tenth or eleventh grade so you can make sure you have the work you need to fulfill their expectations.

B. A demonstration of your range of artistic skill, and your areas of particular passion and commitment - not just classroom assignments. Use a wide variety of mediums, techniques and styles.

C. Highlight your observational drawing skills, these are a key prerequisite for art school and will be considered more deeply by the people reviewing the portfolio.

D. Include process/development work if permitted. There are some schools that require that all work shown in a portfolio be finished but many are interested in seeing sketchbooks, partially finished pieces, thought sketches, etc.

E. Include photographs of the development of a piece from concept to finished work.

F. Include a page on other artistic outlets that you enjoy - instrumental, theater, singing, etc. - to show the range of your capacities.

- Explore the wide variety of art schools out there and understand the difference between Art Schools, art programs at both public and private schools and art trade schools. Do a lot of research and reading online about possible programs as you seek the right one for you. Make sure that your research includes graduation rates and employment information. Art school can be expensive and you want to make sure that you choose one that will support your long term success as an artist.