

# hspva! VisualArtsDepartment

## Mission Statement

The focus of the Visual Arts Department program is to provide a solid foundation in the visual arts and to build a broad based fine arts experience with an emphasis on idea/concept development. This approach requires visual arts students to enhance their technical skills and to experience and explore an extensive variety of arts related media. It also gives advanced students the luxury of time to carry out an intensive investigation of their own areas of interest, be they political, personal, social, and/or aesthetic. This results in uniquely individualized portfolios. It is our belief that this focus helps shape the qualities that have garnered our program international recognition.

## Beliefs

The Visual Arts Department believes that each student has unique needs, backgrounds, strengths and disabilities. They understand it is important to nurture the whole student: supporting them in learning Art, Academics, Character Development and Physical and Mental Health. Students must understand that it is the integration of all these elements that will yield success. Knowing that we cannot even imagine the future in which our students might live, the faculty is committed to prepare students to teach themselves what they need to know as they progress and to teach them how to seek appropriate help when it is necessary.

## HSPVA and Visual Arts Achievements

HSPVA has received national and international recognition for its' academic and artistic achievements. It is a National Blue Ribbon School and consistently ranks at the top among HISD schools in academic achievement tests. The school has received the Rockefeller Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Governor's Award for Exemplary Performance, several Grammy's for Music, and the Broad Award for Urban Schools. In 2006 the Nation Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA) honored HSPVA as one of five "Outstanding Schools for the Performing and Visual Arts" worldwide. The Visual Arts Department works hard to contribute to HSPVA's successes.

Annually, the NFAA sponsors youngARTS search. This national competition attracts more than 8000 student entrees in the disciplines of visual and performing arts and in creative writing. From the 150 "ARTS Finalists" that are invited to Miami each January, 50 are chosen by the White House Commission on the Arts as "Presidential Scholars in the Arts Semi-finalist". Twenty of the 50 are designated as "Presidential Scholars in the Arts" and are honored in Washington, DC each June, along with the "Academic Scholars".

Since the inception of this program, HSPVA has had more "Presidential Scholars In the Arts" than any other high school in the country, and the Visual Arts Department leads the way among HSPVA Art Areas with 12 "Presidential Scholars in the Arts". HSPVA's Visual Arts Department's Presidential Scholars in the Arts:

1986	Matt Heck
1987	Steve Stricklin
1990	Peter Stanley
1994	Ricardo Francis
1999	Lauren McEntire
2000	Michael Mellon
2001	Cathy Lees
2002	Benjamin Wilke
2004	Blake Williams
2006	Rachel Goss
2006	Tassity Johnson (Creative Writing)
2006	Eloise Santa Maria

Students from the Visual Arts Department receive scholarships and grants to attend summer programs and post-secondary professional programs from coast to coast. Additionally, every 2 years the Texas Commission on the Arts awards \$2500 grants to Texas high school students. These grants are merit based and renewable each year until the student graduates. In 2006 our Visual Arts Students received 5 of the 10 grants awarded. In 2007 our students began entering the Portfolio section of the National Scholastic Arts and Writing Program. That year, one of our students, Francisca Wistuba, became the first National Gold Portfolio Winner from this entire area and was awarded \$10,000 for her talents and efforts. In 2008 Andrea Nguyen was distinguished as a National Silver Portfolio Winner.

Much of the artistic success of our students is attributable to the excellent education provided by HSPVA's Academic Faculty. They have more than earned their share of honors and recognition, and certainly without their guidance and support our students would be educationally handicapped in the pursuit of their artistic goals.

We are also exceptionally proud of our Visual Arts Faculty and their achievements. Over the years HSPVA's Visual Arts Faculty members have received numerous fellowships and grants and have enhanced their teaching through studies in various parts of the United States and abroad. We have counted among our numbers 7 "Presidential Scholars' Distinguished Teacher" awards, and a "National Outstanding Teacher in the Arts".

Additionally, we are proud of our graduates. Annually, our Visual Arts graduating seniors receive in excess of \$1,000,000 in scholarships offers. Last year the graduating seniors received in excess of \$2,000,000. Visual Arts Department Graduates have attended virtually every accredited School of Art and Design and many of the most prestigious Colleges and Universities in the nation. They have also exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the world. There are, among our alumni, authors, animators, architects, attorneys, computer gurus, designers, doctors, entrepreneurs, filmmakers, inventors, jewelers, painters, photographers, professors, poets, scientists, sculptors, teachers, etc. and at least two "Emmy Award" winners and one "Jeopardy" champion.

WE WELCOME YOU TO...

"THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL AND THE BEST HIGH SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT IN THE COUNTRY"!

## **Of Interest**

A typical student day at HSPVA includes 3 hours of art area instruction, 4 hours of academics, 30 minutes for lunch and meetings and about 4 hours of homework/rehearsal time.

HSPVA claims that our football team is undefeated since 1971!