



## Performing and Visual Arts

At ICS, we believe every student should have the opportunity to receive quality Arts training. The Arts empower students to think critically and creatively, to contribute to their communities and to communicate and lead confidently. Students who participate in the Arts consistently score higher on standardized tests than students who do not.

### **VISUAL ARTS**

Enrichment and extension Arts opportunities are provided in after school activities and international trips, helping create the best possible learning environment for students to pursue a life-long education in the Arts. The arts provide a forum for safe expression, communication, exploration, imagination, and cultural and historical understanding.

### **PERFORMING ARTS**

#### **BAND AND CHOIR**

Music education uses the artistic medium of musical sound to give insight into the universal human experience. We aim to inspire students to become life-long learners and intelligent creators and consumers of music. The goal of this musical training is to help participants achieve a personal level of understanding, appreciation, and passion for music.

#### **DRAMA AND THEATER**

The ICS Drama & Theater Arts Program provides students with the opportunity to develop both their performance skills and their theater arts production techniques. Based on an inclusive, ensemble approach to drama, the performing arts have the power to enrich lives, stretch minds and change the world.

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# Elementary School

## MUSIC

The Elementary Music Program offers class music lessons to all students starting in EC3 all the way through grade 5. Class music lessons are designed around composing, performing, listening and movement. Instrument playing includes classroom percussion for younger grades with a specific focus on learning to play the ukulele in third grade, the recorder in grade 4 and band instruments in grade 5. Grade 5 students may select to study either flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone or percussion in preparation for grade 6 band. Marimba playing is also an important part of the Elementary Music program at ICS, this includes a 5th Grade Marimba Band.

Major performances feature the grade 3 Meskel Performance in September, the Holiday Concert in December and Classroom Showcases during the last quarter of the school year.



## VISUAL ART

In Elementary Visual Art Program students gain enduring understandings about the elements and principles of design, and build visual and analytical skills through discussions of art and aesthetics. Artist's Studies, Multicultural Art and Art History form part of the program each year. Students learn how artists through the ages express themselves, communicate their culture and record the world around them.

The Visual Arts program introduces students to a wide variety of media and techniques, including painting, collage, ceramics, print-making, textiles, 3-D sculpture and digital art. All students learn to assess and reflect on their own work. Students in upper elementary maintain sketchbooks and e-Portfolios of their art projects throughout the year.

Student artwork is displayed regularly throughout the school, and artists in grades 3 – 5 participate in an Arts Showcase event, where they present selected pieces of artwork to an audience.



“Art is a way in which we can express our innermost thoughts and feelings. Art is so subjective and abstract that it could have so many more ideas than the artist intended to convey. Beyond aesthetics, I feel like art is beautiful because it is a prime example of the diversity we have as humans. I am learning that I love abstract concepts and embedding them in the work that I do. I don't care so much for aesthetics and colors as I do the message behind my work.” - Zega

“Art means you are allowed to let your imagination flow freely without any interruptions and create what you like or whatever interests you the most. I am learning that I am pretty artistic. I'm a colorful person when it comes to editing photos in Photography. Artists usually have meanings behind their artwork, and it's up to the viewers to figure it out. So I think I communicate well with visual language, whether its an artwork or a photograph.” - Joe

“How does someone even begin to describe the Arts? To every person, the Arts means a different thing. It is a way to express yourself, a way to identify yourself. To me it’s a way to distract myself from the ongoing stress in life. Personally, I take both Visual Arts and Photography and both are my favorite classes of each day. Art taught me to be creative, a risk-taker and reflective, all parts of the IB learner profile. To me, art supports the expression of complex feelings, and allows me to make amends for my mistakes, because in art there are no mistakes. As Pablo Picasso said “Art washes away from the soul the dusts of everyday life.” In Visual Arts, I am working on a random design because there can be no errors. In Photography, I am working on taking pictures and editing them to convey my interest in obscure landscape and the complexity of religion. They are easily my favorite classes. - Estephanos



## Middle School

### MUSIC

The music department in the middle school offers a variety of opportunities for musicians of all sorts. We have a grade 6 choir and band, and a combined grade 7 and 8 choir and band. All classes focus on reading music, developing and extending range, ensemble skills, composing and performing. All ensembles have 2–3 performances outside of school and at least one performance during the school year.



Band instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. Students new to ICS can still participate in band without prior experience. Students new to band have the opportunity to come in for extra help in order to catch up.

Additionally, students in grade 7 and 8 can take Survey of Music and Guitar. These are quarter long classes. Survey of Music explores the elements of music and music from around the world. Guitar is intended to show students some of the basic techniques involved in playing guitar.

Jazz Band is offered as an ASA and is open to all instruments, including strings, drum set, guitar, bass guitar and piano.





## VISUAL ART

Students in grades 6 to 8 create a range of inquiry based units that utilize a wide range of art skills. Each artist studies the elements of art, principles & design, and their application to studio works. Media explored include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media collage.

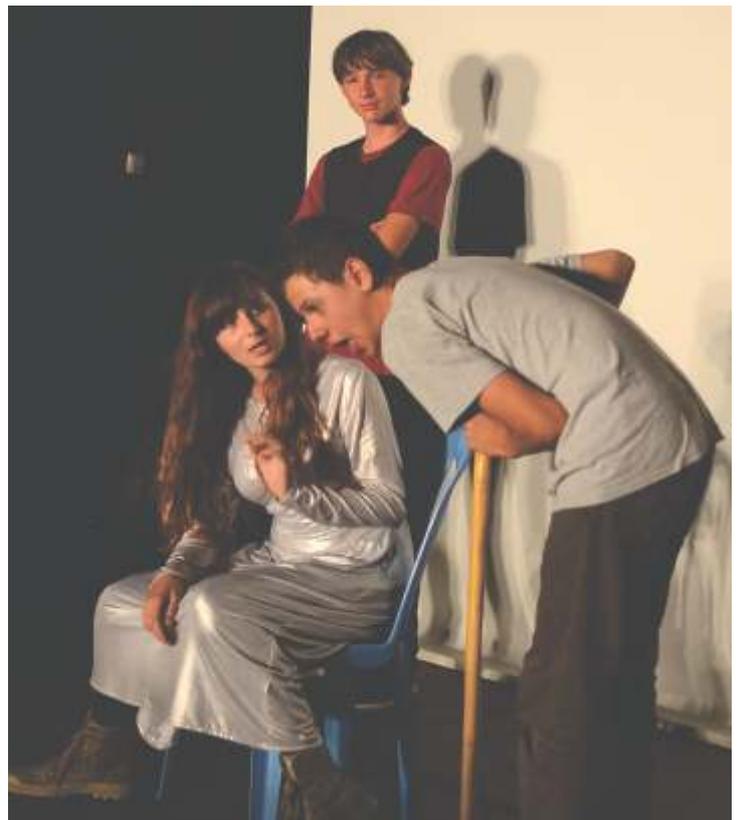
## DRAMA

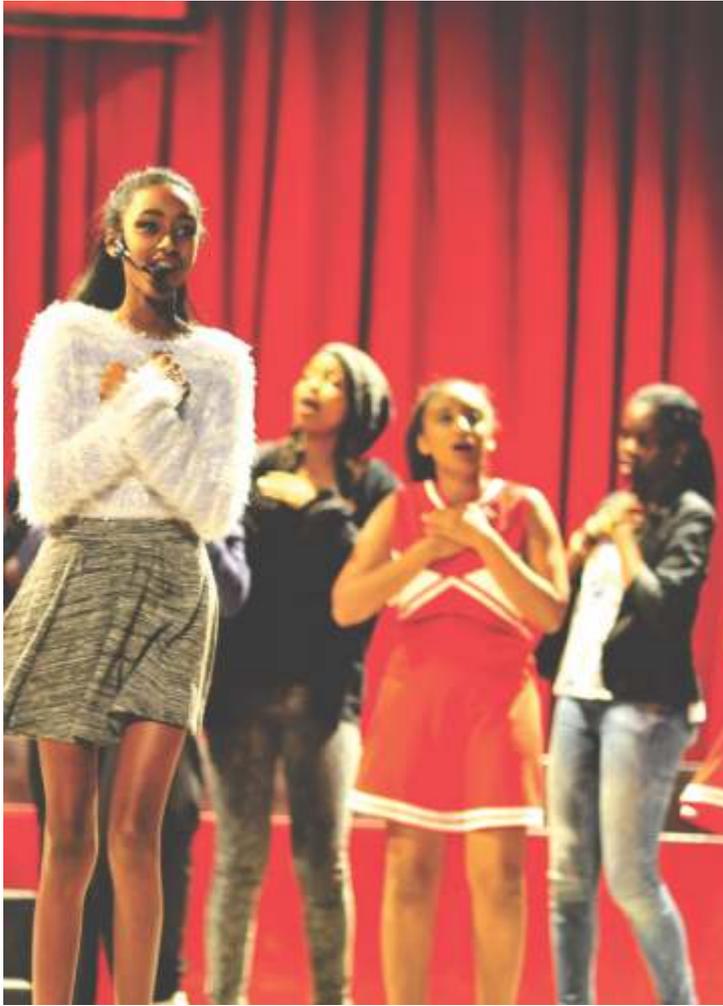
In grade 6 our students are exposed to drama through a quarter long course focusing on theatre games, collaborative ensemble building and confidence building opportunities. Students learn how to interact with one another, how to have control over their bodies, and how fun Drama can be! They learn the basics of improvisation, developing a scene including the five elements of a scene (character, action, location, problem and solution), storytelling, and culminating with a twisted fairy tale improvisation project.

In grades 7 and 8, units on Commedia dell'Arte, Mime, Mask and Melodrama enable students to build on their physical acting skills, movement and vocal techniques, as well as introducing them to both the cultural and historical aspects of a variety of theatre forms. Units in mask work, devising,

design and production allow for individual specialization, and each semester long course culminates in a public performance that students participate in as performers or designers and production crew.

The Middle School also has a strong history of drama ASAs (after school activities). During season 1 and season 3 middle school students have the opportunity to engage in preparing and presenting performances for the ICS community. Recent productions include All in the Stars, Around the World in Eight Plays, and The Garbage King. Whether on stage or back stage, students are able to engage in the vibrant world of live theatre. All proceeds from Middle School drama productions go to communities in need working with ICS.





## High School

### MUSIC

The music department in the high school offers a variety of opportunities for musicians of all sorts. We have a high school concert band and choir. Both classes focus on reading music, developing and extending range, ensemble skills, music theory, composing, and performing. All ensembles have 2–4 performances outside of school and at least one performance during the school year. Black dress slacks/skirts and white shirts are required for concerts. Students in these groups can participate in the ISSEA band and choir festival.

Band instruments include flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. Students new to ICS can still participate in band without prior experience. Students new to band have the opportunity to come in for extra help in order to catch up.

Additionally, high school students can also participate in two semester long Guitar courses - Guitar 1 and Guitar 2. Guitar 1 is intended for students to learn the basic techniques of playing guitar while Guitar 2 takes students to more in-depth learning on these techniques. Students will have 3 performances during the school year in addition to outside of school performance opportunities.





## VISUAL ARTS/IBDP VISUAL ART

The HS Visual Art program offers both an IBDP track and a non-IBDP track. Current courses include; Visual Arts 1 & 2, Advanced Visual Arts 1 & 2, Photography, Multimedia, as well as IBDP Y1 & Y2 at the HL (higher level) and SL (standard level). The HS Visual Arts promote independent art makers who learn to communicate with a visual language. This program offers an opportunity for students to understand art as a lens that links and communicates culture, history, purpose and intent. While creating this on-going understanding; students are encouraged to experiment with a variety of media to develop their own artistic voice. A large yearly HS/IBDP Visual Arts Exhibition celebrates and brings together our student artists and our ICS community.

## HS DRAMA/IBDP THEATRE

HS students have the option of choosing Drama 1: Acting, Directing, and Devising, and/or Drama 2: Drama by Design. Neither course has a prerequisite, and both are semester long. Drama 1 focuses on the development of skills related to authentic acting for performance as well as introducing directing techniques. The culminating project is an original piece of theatre devised by students. The focus of Drama 2 is on stage design: light, sound, costume, and set. Students collect a portfolio of their work to

present to an audience. Additionally, ICS also offers IBDP Theatre for Y1 & Y2 at the HL (higher level) and SL (standard level). Students engage in a variety of opportunities to make theatre as creators, designers, directors and performers. All students prepare for three final assessment tasks: creating a director's notebook based on a published play text; completing a research presentation based on a theatre tradition; collaboratively creating and presenting an original piece of theatre. Higher level students also present a solo theatre piece based on a selected theatre theorist.

The high school program has presented a number of live theatre performances over the years as part of our after school activities (ASAs) program or through class performances. ICS has a long-standing tradition of an annual Amharic play, recent performances include Macbeth and Othello. Other recent main stage productions have included High School Musical, Our Town, Bodas de Sangre and Thirteen Ways to Screw Up Your College Interview. Students are invited to participate in the annual ISSEA Drama and Visual Festival. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in the creation process with a variety of practitioners and students from around East Africa.



“Photography is more than creating images. Indeed, the art of photography yields images, captured moments and contained memories, but most importantly, it tells a story; it communicates emotions, thoughts and ideas. A single photograph can transport people into a land of magic and fairy tales, but conversely, drag them down into an endless abyss of despair. It ignites long-buried emotions of elation and sorrow alike; it warrants sympathy and anger from viewers and sparks the youth into action. It brings a smile to one’s face, and it elicits a tear from another.

But the question remains: What does Photography mean to me? It is a language, drawing its vowels and consonants from the complex feelings, thoughts and actions that makes me human.”

Fiker



ICS is proud to be an active member of the following international Arts organizations: AMIS, IB and ISSEA. All Arts programs are aligned with NCAS standards and benchmarks.