

Jan Wilson
27 years teaching

Bonnie Cusack
28 years teaching

About the School

Nottingham High School
Hamilton, NJ

Type:
Suburban/Comprehensive

Grades:
9-12

Students:
1,450
Very mixed socio-economic status

Arts Requirement:
New Jersey has a 5-credit (one full year) graduation requirement in Visual Art, Music, Dance, or Theatre

About the Visual Art Program

Faculty:
2 full-time

Students:
220

Facilities:
Below Average in Area
• 1 full-time art studio
• 1 shared studio space

Required Courses:
Art Fundamentals or Advanced Fundamentals (first-year students working at an accelerated pace)

Elective Courses:
Drawing & Painting I, Advanced Drawing & Painting II, Sculpture & Ceramics, Mixed Media, Commercial Design & Illustration, and Honors Studio

About the Featured Class

Honors Studio:

Students work independently with a teacher/mentor to develop a portfolio that demonstrates both the depth and breadth of their experience and that explores history and aesthetics through problem solving.

Students work at various points throughout the year with a class of developmentally delayed students who have a wide range of disabilities, from communication or emotional difficulties to perceptual or neurological impairment.

Preparations/Prerequisites:

Eligible students are seniors who have completed Art Fundamentals and a minimum of two other offerings. Students must be able to work independently and complete a contracted body of work throughout the course year.

Student Motivation:

High

Student Level

Advanced

In the Teacher's Words

What benefits do you see for the special education students?

Jan Wilson: Many of these students have amazing ideas when it comes to art. They need an environment that will allow them to experiment without fear of failure. It is affirming for them to see themselves be successful. Several students planned to take the Fundamentals class this year as a result of their experience.

What benefits do you see for the honors students?

Jan Wilson: The honors students lose many of the stereotypes and labels often placed on special education students. They begin to understand the challenges faced by students with learning challenges. They have become supporters and even champions of these students in the school population.