

# Visual Art

## SEGMENT 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jan Wilson

27 years teaching

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### 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

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### 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

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### About the Featured Class

**Commercial Design & Illustration:**

Students explore media, techniques, and motivation for creating art that responds to a specific market in this career-oriented course. This course challenges them to respond consistently to a commercial purpose.

**Preparations/Prerequisites:**

Eligible students are juniors or seniors who have completed Art Fundamentals and a minimum of at least one other visual art course. Many of the students are considering careers in art.

**Typical Subsequent Courses:**

Students are free to take any other offerings of the program including the Honors Studio, which is open only to seniors.

**In the Teacher's Words**

***What are the goals of a commercial design class? How is it different from a traditional visual art class?***

*The course explores techniques for creative problem-solving work that responds to the needs of an outside source (client), rather than from within the students themselves. Unlike other courses, where students create original works, appreciate the work of others, or seek answers about the creative process as artists, the students in this class examine how their art is designed to persuade/modify culture, and they identify career opportunities in a variety of fields.*