



TEEN ARTS + TECH PROGRAM

tuition-free | after school | spring 2025

CREATE ART • MAKE FRIENDS • CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY • ELEVATE YOUR VOICE

At WMCAT, you're an artist. Whether you're glazing ceramics, mixing a beat, designing a mural, shooting a video, or sewing a runway-ready look, the **after school Teen Arts + Tech Program** at the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (WMCAT) provides the space, industry-quality supplies and equipment, mentorship from local professional artists, and community connections needed for you to explore your creativity while building new skills *and* relationships.

And it's all **tuition-free**. If you're in grades 9–12 in Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS), then we have a spot just for you! Enroll to join us after school for the spring 2025 semester. Spots fill up quickly, so sign up today!

We can't wait to see what we'll create together.



fashion design



ceramics



music production



video production



illustration

WHAT TO EXPECT

WMCAT's Teen Arts + Tech Program makes space for you to elevate your voice, build creative confidence, and connect with the community through visual arts and digital media.

WHO – Grand Rapids Public Schools students in grades 9–12.

WHERE – West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology, 614 First St NW #300 (Third Floor), Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

WHEN – After school, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. weekly; days of week depend on studio selection. Studios begin the week of January 27 and end the week of May 12.

transportation

GRPS provides daily yellow school bus transportation (through Dean Transportation) to WMCAT from GRPS high schools and WMCAT provides a city bus (The Rapid) pass to get home from WMCAT. Details about daily yellow school bus transportation will be communicated with students once enrolled, prior to the program start.

schedule

Depending on the studio you participate in, studios meet either twice a week on Tuesday *and* Thursday, or twice a week on Monday *and* Wednesday (please see the studio selection portion of the enrollment form for more information).

a day at WMCAT

When you arrive at WMCAT after school, you'll be greeted by WMCAT Teen Arts + Tech Program staff and teaching artists. We will have a snack offering and an optional activity for you to engage in prior to studios. Announcements are shared at 3:30 p.m. and studios begin immediately after. When studios end at 5:30 p.m., we can provide a bus pass for you to take The Rapid home, or you can make your own arrangements to get home.

studio experience

In your studio, you'll be with up to 11 other GRPS high school students and a teaching artist, allowing you to meet and collaborate with teens from across the city. In addition to gaining skills and completing projects in your studio's visual arts or digital media discipline, you will: go on field trips; explore real-world and career applications of your creative learnings; share your ideas and voice on issues that matter to you; practice giving and receiving feedback; display your work in an exhibition; and have opportunities to participate in other WMCAT Teen Arts + Tech Program activities such as specialty workshops.

key dates

- December 12 • Enrollment opens
- January 8 • Priority enrollment deadline for returning students (students who attended fall 2024 semester)
- January 14 • Enrollment event (required for new students – who did not attend fall 2024 semester)
- January 17 • Enrollment forms due
- By January 23 • Students receive an email regarding studio placement
- Week of Jan. 27 • Teen Arts + Tech Program begins (exact date dependent upon studio)
- February 24-25 • GRPS no school, no Teen Arts + Tech Program
- March 17 • GRPS half day, no Teen Arts + Tech Program
- April 4-11 • GRPS no school, no Teen Arts + Tech Program
- May 13 • Teen Arts + Tech Exhibition at 5:30 p.m., family and friends encouraged to attend
- May 14-15 • End of Year Student Celebration, celebrate with us at your normal studio date + time

TO ENROLL

The Teen Arts + Tech Program is tuition-free and open to all Grand Rapids Public high school students in grades 9-12.

To ensure cross-district representation and opportunity, there are a limited number of student spots in the program per high school; students who enroll after the spots from their high school are filled will be put on a waitlist.

returning students

(Students who attended the fall 2024 semester)

ONE STEP TO ENROLL

1. Complete a spring 2025 enrollment form with your studio selection. **Submit by January 8 to secure your spot before new students enroll.**

- Submit the online form at artstech.wmcat.org/enrollment.

or

- Fill out the attached paper form and either:
 - Drop off form at WMCAT during open hours (M–Th, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)**.
 - Scan and email form to teenprograms@wmcat.org.
 - Bring form to the enrollment event or complete a form at the enrollment event* (below).

**Returning students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) are not required to attend the enrollment event but are welcome to!*

***Note: WMCAT is closed December 23-January 3*

new students

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1. Complete a spring 2025 enrollment form with your studio selection, signed by a parent/guardian, **by January 17**. You can either:

- Submit the online form at artstech.wmcat.org/enrollment.

or

- Fill out the attached paper form and either:
 - Drop off form at WMCAT during open hours (M–Th, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.)*.
 - Scan and email form to teenprograms@wmcat.org.
 - Bring form to the enrollment event (below).
 - Bring a parent/guardian to the enrollment event (below) to complete and sign form.

2. Attend the enrollment event (details below).

You will not be enrolled until both steps are completed.

**Note: WMCAT is closed December 23-January 3*

enrollment event

Required for new students. Returning students welcome.

Tuesday, January 14, 3:30–5:00 p.m.

WMCAT, 614 First St NW #300 (Third Floor), Grand Rapids, MI 49504

See WMCAT’s space, meet staff and teaching artists, and turn in enrollment forms while enjoying refreshments. Open house style; tours every 20 minutes. Busing from schools to WMCAT provided; see the WMCAT poster at your school’s main office for details on transportation.

Questions? Contact Program Coordinator Carolina at 616-454-7004 or teenprograms@wmcat.org.

TEEN ARTS + TECH PROGRAM SPRING 2025 ENROLLMENT FORM

student information (Please print clearly in pen or type)

First name _____ Last name _____

Preferred name (if different) _____ Personal pronouns (he/she/they) _____

Date of birth (month/date/year) _____ Current grade level _____

High school name _____

Email address (for program confirmation and updates) _____

Best phone number _____ cell or home?

Home street address _____

City _____ Zip code _____

T-shirt size: adult S adult M adult L adult XL adult 2XL adult 3XL

How can we best support you? Please also list any accommodations needed for your learning environment, as well as food allergies and health issues we should be aware of:

parent/guardian contact information

First name _____ Last name _____

Best phone number _____ cell or home?

Email address (for program announcement and updates) _____

secondary emergency contact information (not parent/guardian listed above)

First name _____ Last name _____

Best phone number _____ cell or home?

for collective reporting purposes only (data will not be used to identify individuals)

Student race or ethnicity: Asian or Pacific Islander Black Hispanic or Latinx
 Multiracial Native American or Indigenous White Other (please specify): _____

Student sex: male female intersex

Language spoken at home _____ Number of people in household _____

Annual household income level: under \$15,000 \$15,001-\$25,000 \$25,001-\$50,000 \$50,001-\$75,000 \$75,000+

How did you hear about WMCAT? friend school event school staff family online other _____

PERMISSION FORM + WAIVERS

The undersigned legal guardian and student participant agree to this permission waiver for school year 2024-2025 as follows:

EVALUATION

- I understand that for WMCAT to improve, staff and/or professional external evaluators may make observations during activity times, conduct interviews, and administer questionnaires in which my student is asked about their experiences at WMCAT.

FIELD TRIPS

- I give permission for my student to participate in WMCAT’s afterschool Teen Arts + Tech Program. I understand that this signed form is a general permission slip which extends to all WMCAT-related student activities and field trips unless otherwise noted by me below. I give permission for my student to be bused or driven by WMCAT staff.

MEDIA

- I understand that photographs and videos may be taken during WMCAT programming. I understand media and artwork produced by my student may be used for educational, funding, promotional or other purposes and may be sold on behalf of WMCAT. I give WMCAT my permission to use, in part or whole, the name, picture, performance, photograph and/or taped voice of my student. WMCAT is released from any monetary compensation and any and all claims resulting from such use. I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished photography or video or audio recording.

MEDICAL CARE

- In the event of a medical emergency, I authorize WMCAT staff to secure medical attention or hospitalization for my student. I understand that WMCAT does not provide medical insurance for my student, and I am solely responsible for providing such insurance and for payment of any medical treatment expenses for my student that are not covered by insurance.

SOCIAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIPS

- I understand that WMCAT works in partnerships with other social service agencies such as Arbor Circle to provide supportive services and programming for WMCAT students and their families. Services provided by Arbor Circle may include community resource referrals, psycho-educational groups, and counseling services.

SUPERVISION

- I understand that my student will be working in studios, such as fashion, ceramics, and photography, where contact with mechanical equipment and/or chemicals may be involved.
- I understand that WMCAT is not responsible for any items that are damaged, lost, or stolen.
- I understand that WMCAT will supervise my student during program hours at its facility and on field trips. I am responsible for coordinating transportation for my student to get to WMCAT and to get home from WMCAT. I will set boundaries and consequences if my student leaves WMCAT during program hours without my permission.

Student printed name

Student signature

Date

Parent/guardian printed name

Parent/guardian signature

Date

STUDIO SELECTION

All studios are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that WMCAT reserves the right to rearrange studio placements or place studios on a waitlist as necessary. Students placed on a waitlist will be kept on the waitlist for the first three weeks of the semester and will be contacted for placement if a spot becomes available. If enrolled students are absent for the first week of the semester without giving prior notice, they forfeit their spot to a student on the waitlist.

Choose up to two studio selections in the boxes below and on the next two pages with a 1=1st choice and 2=2nd choice. If your 1st choice is full, you will be placed in your 2nd choice, so make sure your 2nd choice is a studio you're excited about and available to participate in.

Please read all studio offerings carefully as there are grade level requirements for some twice weekly Monday and Wednesday studios.

twice weekly: monday + wednesday studio options

ARTISTRY IN MOTION (3D MODELING + ANIMATION)

Eligibility: 9th–12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Brandon Copeland

Dive into the world of 3D modeling where you'll create characters in immersive 3D space. You'll learn how to develop and print 3D art – using software like Blender and Polycam – to be used in video games, virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) applications. Bring ideas to life in a new dimension!

CERAMICS II

Eligibility: 10th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Abby Cushway

Discover endless possibilities in pottery! Build on your foundational skills and expand your ceramics toolkit by exploring new materials and techniques. From larger-scale vessels to advanced glazing techniques, you'll broaden your artistic horizons.

An optional open studio will be available on Wednesdays for students in this studio.

FASHION DESIGN

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: John Cox

Enter the world of fashion and create wearable designs! Develop your fashion idea from concept to production, including illustrating your design, creating prototypes, and sewing your idea into reality. You'll connect with the Grand Rapids Art Museum for Avant Garde inspiration for your final designs which will be modeled at a fashion show in the spring.

VIDEO PRODUCTION II

Eligibility: 10th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Mike Saunders

Join a team of creative students to produce original short films! Learn to write scripts and pitch your ideas. Enhance your skills in teamwork, set etiquette, cinematography, audio and editing while applying techniques like continuity, motivated action, composition and pacing.

ILLUSTRATION BASICS

Eligibility: 10th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: George Eberhardt

Learn the fundamentals of illustration and take your art to the next level! In this studio you'll get skills on how to draw with anatomical accuracy using contrast, line work, and structural design to develop your style. In this paperless class model, use Procreate and iPads to practice the basics using technology. This studio is great for beginners or those looking to create using digital tools from start to finish.

twice weekly: tuesday + thursday studio options

CERAMICS I

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Abby Cushway

Join us on an exciting ceramics journey and explore a wide range of techniques in a welcoming environment. You'll learn the basics of hand-building – to create trinket dishes, plates, bowls, and small-scale sculptures – before creating symmetrical pieces like mugs, vessels and vases on the pottery wheel. Let your imagination soar through clay.

DIGITAL ILLUSTRATION

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: George Eberhardt

Bring drawing to life through digital illustration! With a focus on media like manga, comics, stickers, and t-shirts, you'll learn traditional techniques and apply your skills using Photoshop and other digital software tools. Experience what's possible when you go from pen and paper to creative technology.

FASHION DESIGN I

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: John Cox

Enter the world of fashion and create wearable designs! Develop your fashion idea from concept to production, including illustrating your design, creating prototypes, and sewing your idea into reality. You'll connect with the Grand Rapids Art Museum for Avant Garde inspiration for your final designs which will be modeled at a fashion show in the spring.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Brandon Copeland

Experience the excitement of the music industry and meet local artists! Discover techniques like writing lyrics, producing, mixing, and beat making. You will use MIDI controllers, Logic Pro on MacBook, and professional sound equipment in our recording booth to craft your studio album.

VIDEO PRODUCTION I

Eligibility: 9th-12th grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Mike Saunders

Get your start in video production! Discover the fundamental elements of storytelling, acting, camera technique and sound design to bring a narrative to life. Learn how to refine your videos to perfection using industry standard programs like Adobe Premiere Pro. You'll pair your new video skills with professional Canon camera equipment to bring your creativity to life.