

## Philosophy of Art

Cedar Classical Academy believes that both enjoying and creating art is a gift from God and part of our calling as human beings made in His image. God is the ultimate Artist, whose skill and glory is manifest for us in His creation. We reflect our Creator and bring Him glory when we apply our skill to create (not ex nihilo as God does, but using the raw materials He has provided) objects and images both useful and beautiful. Enjoying works of art created by others also leads us to worship God as the One who endowed mankind with artistic skill. Beauty (like truth and goodness) is not a subjective quality. We assert that beauty is not in the eye of the beholder but in the being of God; He is the source and definition of beauty. Therefore our enjoyment and creation of art must be submitted to His standard and His lordship. We also understand that imitation precedes creation of art. One cannot truly be creative, producing “new” artistic ideas and works, without first acquiring skill (technical and perceptual) by studying and imitating the works of others—whether God’s artwork in the natural world or skillful human works of art.

The art curriculum at Cedar Classical Academy is designed with these principles in view. Students are introduced to an objective standard of beauty and excellence in art through exposure to the artistic masterpieces of Western civilization. Lower school students study a few artists over the course of a year, learning to closely observe, understand, and appreciate the masterpieces. This is accompanied by instruction in art history at a developmental level appropriate for each class. Students are also instructed in the theory and terminology of visual art, as well as the technical skills for working with various media. Imitation—as a precursor to creativity—is practiced as students try their hands at copying masterworks and reproducing objects and scenes from the natural world.