



## FINE ARTS UPDATE

Katie Townsend, Fine Arts Department Director

[ktownsend@athensacademy.org](mailto:ktownsend@athensacademy.org)

[Fine Arts Calendar](#)

November 13, 2025

The Fine Arts department is **M.A.D.!** The **M**usic, **A**rt and **D**rama departments have been in full swing this fall and we show no signs of slowing down. Throughout the fall semester, our talented students and dedicated faculty have demonstrated remarkable creativity, discipline, and artistic excellence across all three disciplines. The momentum we have built continues to propel us forward as we approach the winter season, with numerous performances, exhibitions and events that highlight the depth and breadth of artistic talent within our school community. A special congratulations to our Debbie Burnett (Lower School music) and Misty Willcox (Preschool music) on a job well done in organizing wonderful performances for Grandparents and Special Friends Day last Friday. We encourage you to mark your calendars for the exciting upcoming events that promise to inspire and engage our entire Athens Academy community in the weeks ahead.

### MUSIC

#### Knitathon!

Spartan Strings is an honors string ensemble made up of Middle School musicians passionate about sharing their love for music. Committed to fostering connections within their Athens Academy community and beyond, the group aims to perform at school and local events, senior centers, and hospitals, bringing joy and inspiration through their performances. This past Sunday, they performed along with a few Upper School Spartan Strings alumni and several amazing Upper School Tri-M members at the annual Knitathon. [The Knitathon event](#) is a fundraiser for the Athens Area Homeless Shelter. We loved being able to showcase some of Athens Academy's great musical talent while providing a wonderful atmosphere for the participants. We are so proud of our Spartans for their drive to make a positive impact, one note at a time!



#### Middle School and Upper School Orchestra Fall Concert

**Thursday, November 13 / 7:00 PM / Bertelsmann Performance Hall**

Join us for a beautiful night of music featuring our orchestra members from grades 5-12! It will be a fantastic event, showcasing the scope and sequence of skills learned from our first years of ensemble playing all the way to our most advanced capabilities in the Upper School ensemble. We hope you can come experience this wonderful event! [Fall Orchestra Program](#)

#### Grade 5 General Music

The fifth graders spent the first trimester delving deep into the fundamentals of music. They bolstered their musical vocabulary and grew their skills as a musical ensemble, singing and playing a variety of games and pieces of music that were meant to enhance their musicianship as well as help them build camaraderie and self-confidence. They created Music Symbol Monsters in October to practice identifying and drawing a plethora of musical symbols and they shared a poignant rendition of "America the Beautiful" and the

Pledge of Allegiance for Veterans Day. They will spend December learning about the instrument families and practicing reading notes on the treble clef staff to prepare them to play recorders (the original woodwind instrument) in January! [5th grade salutes our Veterans!](#)

### **Grade 6 Band**

Beginning band students have gone from 0 to 100 in three months! They just started their instruments this fall and are already preparing for their first concert, which will be held on Wednesday, December 10. They are a determined, vivacious, and musical bunch that can get an incredible amount of learning done and music made in 45 minutes. They will not only join their Middle School peers at the winter concert (read below for more details) but will put on an encore performance for their second grade buddies to cap off an amazing first half of their first year in band!

### **Grades 7-12 Band**

This fall, the Athens Academy Pep Band (grades 7-12) performed at two football games, one parade, two planned pep rallies, and one pop-up High 5 Sports pep rally! The amount of musical growth that they have achieved over the last few months has been astounding and it showed on October 30, when they were able to put a high-energy, high-quality performance together for *Good Day Atlanta* at the drop of a hat. Since then, they have been preparing for their winter concert, which will be held on Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bertelsmann Presentation Hall. There will be pre-concert music as well as a reception with goodies and wassail! Come celebrate the season and all of the hard work that our Athens Academy musicians from grades 6-12 have put into preparing music to share with you!

## **ART**

### **Community and Canvas Art Show and Reception**

Upper School art teacher Luke Graves is excited to host an Athens Academy art exhibition featuring works contributed by members of our Spartan community. This includes faculty, alumni, and current/alumni families connected to our wonderful school. The show will run through April, so be sure to stop by and see this amazing installation. Contact Luke Graves if you have any questions [lgraves@athensacademy.org](mailto:lgraves@athensacademy.org).

### **Welcome Ms. Raven!**

The Middle School and Fine Arts departments are excited to announce that alumna Jesse Raven, Class of 2014, will be joining the Middle School faculty as our new art teacher. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Raven! We also wish Mrs. Babbitt farewell as she embarks on new adventures, and we are so very thankful for her dedication to Athens Academy and the visual arts department.

## **DRAMA**

### **One Act Play Update**

This year's entry to the GHSA One Act Play competition was the classic musical *Guys and Dolls*. "The run on our home stage was well received with solid houses for every performance!" commented Director Lorraine Thompson. The last home show was held on October 23, 2025. It was a benefit show for the Salvation Army. "In cooperation with the one act play, we stage a benefit show reflecting the themes of the play," stated Ms. Thompson. "This year the selected non-profit was The Salvation Army. This year's benefit raised \$550 in donations! That is amazing! The show company was thrilled to be able to give back to our community in such an impactful way!"

The GHSA Region One Act Play competition was held at Barrow Arts and Sciences school in Winder on Saturday, October 25. The day was filled with student bonding, making new friends, support others in the arts, and watching the other one act plays. In addition to placing third overall, ACAD's production walked

away with the “Best Costumes” award, Andrew Caldwell ‘27 and Errin Austin ‘27 were each selected to receive an “All-Star Cast” acting award, and our very own Alexandra Hutchinson ’26 was awarded “Best Supporting Actress”!

### **Middle School Play Auditions**

Auditions for this year’s Middle School play, *Annie, JR.*, will begin on Monday, November 17. Auditions will run Monday-Thursday from 3:20-5:15 p.m. each afternoon. We look forward to seeing all the amazing talent next week! The show will be February 6-8, 2026. Mark your calendars now! If you have any questions, please [email Katie Townsend](#).