

[THE ARTS]



FORGING AN EDUCATION...

with powertools and creativity

The sounds of students drilling, hammering, sawing, laser cutting and creating designs with a 3-D printer often waft out of the upper school's MakerLab. Whether it's students crafting cubes to prove their carpentry skills or constructing the set for the spring musical, the students drive the learning.

Collegiate's mission encourages teachers to breathe real-world experience and opportunities into their classrooms—and this particular classroom is fueling that experience with full force. Students use every moment to think and create once they walk through the MakerLab door, and they're making their dreams a reality.

Theater Director & Coordinator of Maker Education Brendan Hoyle started the theatrical production class in 2013 with one class and a handful of students. Since then, it's grown in popularity among upper school students, having seen a 33 percent increase between the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, and growing into Theatrical Production I, II, III and IV.

“It’s a totally student-run class. Of course there’s a curriculum, but it’s up to the students to think, design and build whatever they think fits the task at hand.”

Brendan Hoyle | Theater Director and Coordinator of Maker Education

The upper levels of the class are responsible for creating the set for all upper, middle and lower school productions, keeping students busy throughout the school year.

The lower-level classes were not, of course, quite handy enough with power tools to create the full backdrop for “Mary Poppins: The Musical” (the upper school's spring performance). But all levels experience is packed with project-based, design-thinking challenges. Theatrical Production I students start with the fundamentals: navigating power tools, simple set design, drawing and planning. Those are the basics they need to get their feet wet and work up to navigating a full-scale production set.

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Left: Tyler Hamlin '20 and Peter Francis '20 work together to construct a box during their Theatrical Production class.



Brendan Hoyle, theater director & coordinator of maker education, reviews a 3-D rendering of a set produced by students before building the set for the upcoming play. Theatrical Production students from left to right are Topher Francis '22, Sebastian Portillo '21, Jessica Magee '21 and Drew Hess '22.

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The classes don't just create the backdrop and stage landscape; they also run the show. The Meredith Center for the Arts holds the beautiful Hackney Theater, complete with a state-of-the-art sound and light booth for professional-level performances. The students use QLab—a professional, multimedia playback software created specifically for live performances and entertainment—to light and mic the actors on stage, not unlike their Broadway counterparts.

“Theatrical Production is interesting because it gives students the opportunity to translate information they’ve learned in other classes into something physical and artistic,” said Hoyle. “Students explore theme, metaphor and mood in English class, and those topics come up in Theatrical Production, too. We take those concepts and make them tangible with scenic and lighting design. Similarly, as students build sets for shows, they’re constantly using skills they learned in their math classes to find dimensions and angles for components of their designs.”

DID YOU KNOW?

There are three MakerLabs at Norfolk Collegiate. Our labs are labeled one through three with MakerLab 1 in the lower school, MakerLab 2 in the middle school and MakerLab 3 in the upper school.

The spaces were brought to life through generous Annual Auction Fund-an-Item donors in 2016. Since then, the spaces have become community hubs of innovation filled with age-appropriate items for students and teachers.

Some of the items found in the spaces include CNC routers, 3-D printers, laser cutters, hand-powered tools, computers, LEGO® Robotics, to littleBits Electronics, Osmos, Ozobots, Makey Makey® kits and raw materials galore.

THE MEREDITH CENTER

Playing a Key Role

Immediately next to the upper school MakerLab, where sounds of power tools and boisterous collaboration rule supreme, the chorus room competes for decibel space. You might also hear wafts of brass instruments and drums from the Hackney Theater stage as the band begins its dress rehearsal. It's a symphonic learning experience, fully equipped with college-level accoutrements.

Chorus Teacher Max Holman has seen incredible growth in his chorus program in the last year. His expertise and energetic enthusiasm about his course offerings are contagious. The choral program has grown by nearly 70 percent since last year, and his music theory students have almost doubled.

His chorus classes range from sixth- to 12th-grade students who learn the basics of reading music, choral breathing techniques and several different languages. Most of their music is sung in a foreign language, so students now recognize some of those languages including Latin, German, French, Spanish, Hebrew and Norwegian.

Many of those chorus students also are involved in the upper school's theatrical productions throughout the year, creating an impressive ensemble that just seems to get better and better. The 2017-18 productions of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" and "Mary Poppins: The Musical" were both hits. The spring musical sold out every performance and even received public praise for the shows in the form of reviews on Collegiate's Facebook page.

The spring musical also featured a live pit band that included several professional musicians who played alongside Collegiate students and teachers. This made for an incredible, real-world opportunity to engage with the professional musical community in Hampton Roads.

The Meredith Center supports every division in its performance needs, whether that's hosting the fourth- and fifth-grade musical or seeing a sold-out house for upper school performances. It's the epicenter of hands-on, creative learning at Collegiate, and our students are always finding new ways to be creative.



REFORMATION

Humanities Series Explores a Movement that Changed the World

It's been 500 years since Martin Luther rejected some of the most integral teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, and it's shaped our histories ever since.

This year, for the fourth installment of the Betty M. & William B. Jones Humanities Speaker Series, several speakers addressed the fallout from Luther's movement and eventual creation of a splintered Christianity and beyond. The talks fostered learning informed by current dialogue and research in education, an initiative that stems directly from the Norfolk Collegiate strategic plan.

In February, Dr. Erin Lambert, associate professor of history at the University of Virginia, discussed the unintended consequences of Luther's actions, most specifically the transformation of the idea and act of belief itself.

The following month, Dr. David Copeland, A.J. Fletcher Professor and professor of communications at Elon University, discussed the impact of the printing press, its ability to share ideas among people and its impact on the media.

"Religion underwent a reformation," he said. "Society experienced shifts in power and political upheaval that affected nearly every country in Europe and countries affected by colonial possessions."

Visitors were treated to an art exhibit by art students from Old Dominion University depicting letterpress posters similar to those Luther would have posted.

One goal of the series, according to Betty Jones, is "to foster a greater appreciation of the nature and significance of the humanities. My goal is for the series to exemplify how they (the humanities) broaden our understanding of ourselves and our history. By encompassing such areas as history, literature, opera, politics, drama, music and film, this year's programs can contribute more to that understanding than any one discipline alone could do."



DID YOU KNOW?

The series was established in the fall of 2014 with the support of longtime Norfolk Collegiate faculty member Betty Jones (retired) and her husband Bill, pictured above. Inspired by a Civil War lecture series hosted by Collegiate, the Joneses wanted to see similar programming that demonstrated Collegiate's role in educating the larger community and its students.

POETRY OUT LOUD

Academic innovation is our cornerstone, and our students are an integral part of helping to carry out that mission. They have continually proven when they engage in creative work, the product is never short of incredible.

Students Taylor Dews '18 and Cecilia Innis '18 are no strangers to the spotlight that comes with the Poetry Out Loud competition. Poetry Out Loud is a national program that helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about literary history in the scope of contemporary life through poetry memorization and recitation competitions.

Both women competed at the regional competition in 2017, and Cecilia advanced to states. In 2018, both made it to the regional competition, and Taylor advanced to the state level.

Each year, schools participate at the school, regional, state and national levels. Taylor and Cecilia participated at the school level with classmates Milan Brooks '18, Sarah Kirven '19 and Libby Snowden '20, all of whom read poems they chose from the Poetry Out Loud anthology. According to the program's rules, once students advance to states, they must have three poems prepared; one must be 25 lines or fewer and one must be written before the 20th century.

"I chose two poems: 'I Felt a Funeral in My Brain,' by Emily Dickinson, and 'In Memoriam: Martin Luther King Jr.,' by June Jordan," said Cecilia. "I chose the first because Dickinson is one of my favorite poets, and I feel like her poetry is relatable. I chose the second because it resonates with how I feel about injustice and activism in America."



Taylor Dews



Cecilia Innis



Milan Brooks



Sarah Kirven



Libby Snowden



Brandon Willis '25 takes a solo during the fourth- and fifth-grade musical "At the Bandstand."

THE ARTS



Quin King '24 performs "Razzle Dazzle" from Chicago during the middle school's spring play, "A Night on Broadway."



The cast of "Mary Poppins" concludes "Anything Can Happen" in the upper school spring musical.



Kindergarten and first-grade students show off their talents during their play, "Wing It." Pictured (left to right): Samuel Russell '29, Charlotte Hilton '29, Quinn Burton '30, Landon Thomson '29 and Claire Bricco '29.



Second- and third-grade students celebrate the game of soccer and the value of good sportsmanship, goal setting and working as a team during their play, "Goal!"



Students Hayley Bartel '18 and Taylor Dews '18 look on as fellow students Amore Anderson '18 and Sophie Zhou '18 take the spotlight during their scene in the upper school's fall production of "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon."