# WMCAT

# TEEN ARTS + TECH PROGRAM

tuition free | after-school | fall 2026

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

**Creativity belongs here — and so do you.** Whether you're glazing ceramics, capturing a photo, mixing a beat, designing a mural, shooting a video, or sewing a runway-ready look, WMCAT has a spot just for you. The afterschool Teen Arts + Tech Program provides the space, industry-quality supplies and equipment, mentorship from local professional artists, and community connections needed to explore your creativity while building new skills and relationships.

And it's all tuition-free! If you're entering grades 9–12 and attend Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS), **enroll to join us after school for the fall 2026 semester.**

We can't wait to see what we'll create together next school year — spots fill up quickly, so sign up today!

*Fashion Design • Video Production • Photography • Music Production*

*Ceramics • Digital Illustration • 3D Animation*

# 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.

## 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 this 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 and a snack will be provided. From 3:00–3:30 p.m. there will be creative activities and guest artist engagements for you to participate in before studios begin. All students are asked to participate once they sign in. 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*

Studios are first come, first served! Students are placed in studios on a rolling basis.
**We recommend turning in your materials ASAP to secure your spot!**

**Enrollment Open:** May 14

**Priority Enrollment Deadline (Returning Students):** August 27
*This is the last date for returning students to enroll and guarantee their studio spot.*

**Fall Semester Enrollment Event:**
September 3 from 3 - 5 p.m. | September 16 from 3 - 5 p.m.
*Come visit WMCAT studios and meet your teaching artists!*
*This kick off event is required for new students - returning students welcome.*

**Programming Starts:** September 21

**Enrollment Closes:** September 29

**Fall Exhibition + Programming Ends:** December 10

# 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.

## *new students*

### TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1 **Complete a Fall 2026 enrollment form with your studio selection, signed by a parent/guardian. You can either:**

- Submit the online form at wmcat.org

**OR**

- 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.

**Attend the enrollment event (details below)**

2 You will not be enrolled until both steps are completed.

## *returning students*

### ONE STEP TO ENROLL

1 **Complete a Fall 2026 enrollment form with your studio selection, signed by a parent/guardian. You can either:**

- Submit the online form at wmcat.org

**OR**

- 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.

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

## *fall semester enrollment event*

***Required for new students. Returning students are welcome!***

**SEPTEMBER 3, 3 - 5 P.M.**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 3 - 5 P.M.**

**Location: West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology | 614 First St NW, STE 300 (Third Floor)**

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 Manager, Carolina at 616.454.7004 or **teenprograms@wmcat.org**

# TEEN ARTS + TECH PROGRAM
# FALL 2026 ENROLLMENT FORM

**student information (please print clearly in pen or type)**

Are you a new or returning student? (Required)

❑ I am a new student (I didn't attend WMCAT in the 2025-2026 school year)

❑ I am a returning student (I attended WMCAT in the 2025-2026 school year)

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 _____

How are you getting home after the program?

❑ I'll take the bus
❑ Someone is picking me up
❑ I'm driving myself
❑ I'm walking or biking
❑ Other

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 ❑ Middle Eastern or North African ❑ Multiracial ❑ Native American or Indigenous ❑ White ❑ Other (please specify): _____

Student gender: ❑ Agender ❑ Genderqueer or Genderfluid ❑ Nonbinary ❑ Woman/Girl ❑ Man/Boy

Language spoken at home _____

Number of people in household _____

How did you hear about WMCAT? ❑ friend ❑ school event ❑ school staff ❑ family ❑ online ❑ social media ❑ other:

# PERMISSION FORM + WAIVERS

The undersigned legal guardian and student participant agree to this permission waiver for school year 2026-2027 as follows:

## EVALUATION

I understand that for the West Michigan Center for Arts + Technology (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

# VALUES + AGREEMENTS

**Here at WMCAT, we are committed to creating a space rooted in respect, curiosity, and collaboration. To foster this environment, it requires shared responsibility, between both students and staff.**

**Below are WMCAT's values and agreements. By checking each box + signing, you agree to uphold these during your time as a Teen Arts + Tech student.**

## CURIOSITY

❑ I will engage with studio projects, materials and guest artists with openness and kindness.
❑ I will explore new ideas and creative practices, and use equipment safely with teaching artist guidance.

## BELONGING

❑ I will help create a welcoming space where everyone's identities and experiences are respected.
❑ I will engage in daily gathering activations to build community and connect with others.

## COLLABORATION

❑ I will respect the space, materials, and people around me so everyone can create.

## STUDENT VOICE

❑ I will share my ideas, questions, and feedback in ways that support our learning community.
❑ I will complete the end-of-semester evaluation to help develop the program!

## PARTICIPATION

❑ I will arrive on time and be fully present in the studio for class, which takes place from 3:30-5:30p.
❑ I will focus on WMCAT projects during class and save unrelated work for another time.

## IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

❑ At WMCAT, we repair and reset — not punish. I will pause, reflect, repair, and reset when conflicts or challenges come up. I will work with instructors and peers to find a way forward together.

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student printed name | student 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 students 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.

### *twice weekly: monday + wednesday*

#### 3D Art + Animation

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

Transform from a media consumer into a creator of digital worlds. Using Blender, the industry-leading open-source 3D suite, students will learn to build characters, design cinematic environments, and animate original creations. Explore 3D modeling, sculpting, rigging with digital skeletons, scene lighting, and virtual cinematography using cameras and focal lengths. Students will create a 2-minute animated short, taking a character or environment from concept sketch and script to a fully rendered HD video ready for portfolios or social media.

#### Ceramics II

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

This studio is for students with ceramics experience who are ready to advance their skills and work more independently. Students will set personal goals and pursue self-directed projects while contributing to collaborative group artwork. Explore wheel throwing, slab building, and sculpture while developing a deeper understanding of process, artistic ideas, and personal growth as a ceramic artist. Part workshop and part creative community, this studio encourages experimentation, collaboration, and intentional artistic development.

#### Fashion Design II

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

This studio is designed for students ready to draft patterns from scratch and drape fabric on a dress form. Explore textile techniques such as dyeing and distressing to add texture and character to your designs. Students will complete the semester with a finished garment and portfolio project while learning production budgeting, fit, silhouette, and collection development. A tour of the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre costume department offers insight into professional costume and fashion production.

#### Video Production

Eligibility: 9 - 12 grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Andy Miller

In Video Production, students will learn the full process of creating video content from concept to final edit. Gain hands-on experience with camera operation, lighting, audio recording, and professional editing techniques. Projects include producing a social media commercial, documentary-style interview, short film, and live stream. Students will work independently and collaboratively, developing storytelling and production skills while creating projects that reflect their interests and communities.

#### Digital Illustration II

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

Strengthen digital painting skills and bring your ideas to life using color theory and composition development. You'll complete three portfolio-ready digital paintings based on your personal interests. Projects include fan art paintings, portrait studies, photo recreations with a creative twist, and more. After completing the intro projects, students will set personal goals and use open studio time to work on pieces that reflect their interests. Join a supportive environment where young artists can create, experiment, and grow within a creative community.

#### Film Photography

Eligibility: 9 - 12 grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Matthew Provoast

Create images by hand in a glowing darkroom where photos come to life through traditional film processes. Students will use 35mm and pinhole cameras while learning to shoot film, develop negatives, and make black-and-white prints. Explore photograms, cyanotypes, collage, layering, and other hands-on techniques with a vintage aesthetic. Through experiments with light, shadow, texture, mood, and storytelling, students will create personal, thoughtful work while exploring creative ideas and developing their own artistic style.

*twice weekly: tuesday + thursday*

## Music Production

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

Learn how music goes from a bedroom demo to a professional recording in this hands-on digital music production studio. Using Logic Pro and other DAW tools, students will explore sound design, drum programming, sequencing, mixing, and recording techniques. Create beats, full songs, or band recordings while developing technical skills and a unique creative style. Students will complete the studio by producing an original 3-track EP, creating a digital press kit, and presenting their work at a live listening party showcase.

## Ceramics I

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

Get your hands dirty in this ceramics studio designed for beginners and students with early experience. Learn core techniques including wheel throwing, slab building, hand sculpting, and glazing to finish and personalize your work. Projects combine independent and collaborative work, including custom ceramic clocks and large-scale group sculptures. Students will build a foundation in ceramics and leave with a body of work that is functional, expressive, and uniquely their own.

## Fashion Design I

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

Step into costume and fashion design, where clothing becomes a tool for storytelling. Students will sketch croquis, create visual research boards, and develop themed concepts inspired by a tour of the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre costume department. Learn hand-stitching, machine sewing, and garment construction using commercial patterns while exploring fabric choice, silhouette, and historical context.

## Video Production

Eligibility: 9 - 12 grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Andy Miller

In Video Production, students will learn the full process of creating video content from concept to final edit. Gain hands-on experience with camera operation, lighting, audio recording, and professional editing techniques. Projects include producing a social media commercial, documentary-style interview, short film, and live stream. Students will work independently and collaboratively, developing storytelling and production skills while creating projects that reflect their interests and communities.

## Digital Illustration I

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

Learn the fundamentals of animation using tools like Procreate on the iPad to create dynamic digital work. Students will explore key animation principles including squash and stretch, arcs, exaggeration, staging, and solid drawing while creating shorts with original characters. Experiment with coloring, line art, and visual style development through independent projects and studio time. This studio encourages creativity, experimentation, and artistic growth within a supportive studio community.

## Digital Photography

Eligibility: 9 - 12 grade GRPS students
Teaching Artist: Matthew Provoast

Create bold, expressive images in a studio built for experimentation. This studio goes beyond basic photography, using DSLR cameras, studio lighting, Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop, and MacBook Pro workstations. Explore portraits, still life, and concept-driven projects using everyday objects like fruit, flowers, and plants. Focus on light, color, mood, and storytelling while developing technical and creative skills. Students will shoot, edit, print, and produce a final body of work that reflects their unique perspective.