

Pinnacle High School • 4-year Graphic Design Program • Course Descriptions

Graphic Design 1-2 is an introductory level course, which exposes students to the fundamentals of graphic design (visual communication), and provides them with hands-on experience using industry-standard technology. Additionally, this course familiarizes students with the profession of visual communication (graphic design) and prepares interested students in their pursuit of potential careers in the creative and growing visual communication industry. Throughout Graphic Design 1-2, students will apply basic design concepts—utilizing relevant technology—to **primarily print-based graphic design projects**. This process will help students develop a skill-set rich in critical thinking, logic, organization, communication and problem solving.

At Pinnacle, Graphic Design 1-2 students will execute design projects using Macintosh computers equipped with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. No prior experience with the subject or technology is required.

Prerequisite Course: None

Course fee: \$25

Graphic Design 3-4 is an intermediate level course in which students build on the fundamentals of visual communication (graphic design) introduced in the previous level, by gaining knowledge of complex design concepts, and added experience utilizing industry-standard technology. Throughout Graphic Design 3-4, students are challenged to apply these basic and complex methods, techniques and concepts—utilizing relevant technology—to create effective designs to satisfy clients' communication needs, with **an emphasis on digital environments**. Additionally, this course continues to prepare interested students for careers in the creative, diverse and growing visual communication industry.

At Pinnacle, Graphic Design 3-4 exposes students to the fundamentals of **animation**. Though many people associate animation with cartoon-content created by the entertainment industry, animation is used in a wide range of fields including: education, medicine, architecture, engineering, forensics, and science.

Prerequisite Course: Graphic Design 1-2

Course fee: \$25

Graphic Design 5-6 at Pinnacle provides visual communication (graphic design) students with an overview of the history, technologies, and resources of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Students will receive hands-on experience with various Internet/WWW communication, resource-discovery, and information-retrieval tools. Web page development is also included, with a **focus on HTML and CSS** hand-coding, and an introduction to Dreamweaver and Javascript. Throughout the course, students are challenged to apply complex methods, techniques and concepts—utilizing relevant technology—to create effective solutions to satisfy clients' communication needs, with an emphasis on a digital environment. Additionally, this course continues to prepare interested students for careers in the creative, diverse and growing visual communication industry.

Prerequisite Course: Graphic Design 3-4

Course fee: \$35

Graphic Design 7-8 is an expert level course in which students are challenged to integrate their design knowledge and technology skills in order to create effective designs that communicate visually in print-based and digital media. Throughout Graphic Design 7-8, students are challenged to apply both basic and complex methods, techniques and concepts—utilizing relevant technology—to create effective designs to satisfy clients' communication needs. A final four-year portfolio communicates the student's design sense and experience with industry-standard technology in preparation for post-secondary experience.

At Pinnacle, students enrolled in the Graphic Design 7-8 expert-level class are afforded the opportunity of establishing his or her goals for the year. Since the curriculum is individualized for each GD 7-8 student, each student follows a unique assignment calendar. A student may choose to further hone his or her animation and Web design skills (HTML, CSS, Javascript, Dreamweaver, Flash), return to working in primarily print-based media (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), **or** choose to work in a combination of digital and print-based media.

Prerequisite Course: Graphic Design 5-6

Course fee: \$35