

2026-2027 Perpich Arts High School Profile



PERPICH

WHAT IS PERPICH ARTS HIGH SCHOOL?

Perpich Arts High School opened its doors in 1989 and graduated its first class in 1991. It is a tuition-free, public, residential-optional high school for students in 11th and 12th grades. The school is part of Perpich Center for Arts Education, a state agency created in 1985 and funded through the Minnesota state legislature to promote access to and opportunities for arts education for all Minnesota students, teachers, and schools.

Students who wish to attend Perpich Arts High School must go through a **competitive admissions process**. Those accepted have demonstrated artistic promise and a strong commitment to study in the arts and academics. The school stresses **arts and academics equally** and emphasizes creative and analytical thinking, problem solving, and decision making.

The school may enroll no more than **310 students** and they must be residents of Minnesota. They come from all parts of the state and from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Average class size is **14 students**. The school's residence hall can accommodate approximately **140 students**.

CLASSES AND INSTRUCTORS

The school follows a block schedule system in which full-credit academic courses are taught in 90-minute periods so that a full year's credit is earned in one semester. Half-credit academic and arts electives are offered during 50-minute blocks. Art courses are three hours per day, two credits per semester. The school day is 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The school is accredited by Cognia Global Commission, which includes the NCA CASI, SACS CASI, and NWAC regional accrediting divisions. Perpich Arts High School received a five-year Exemplary School designation from the Arts Schools Network for 2025–2030, recognizing its commitment to excellence.

WHAT WE OFFER

The school provides a college preparatory curriculum with core courses. The arts programs are dance, literary arts, media arts, music, musical theater, theater, and visual arts. Art courses are also college preparatory in addition to technical work in each art area. Advanced Placement classes offered include AP Art History, AP Calculus AB, AP Environmental Science, and AP Literature and Composition. Perpich offers a College in the Schools course through the University of Minnesota-Twins Cities. Perpich uses the Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) as a means to supplement, not replace, in-school academics.

Perpich Arts High School grading scale

A	4.0	A-	3.67
B+	3.33	B	3.0
B-	2.67	C+	2.33
C	2.0	C-	1.67
D+	1.33	D	1.00
D-	.667	NC	0

Perpich 2026 mean ACT scores

Composite	21.9
English	21.9
Mathematics	18.9
Reading	24.9
Science	20.3

THE PERPICH CLASS OF 2026:

100%

Graduation rate

310

School capacity

14:1

Average class size

140

Residence hall capacity

3.28

Average GPA of incoming
2026-27 students

69%

Of graduates continue
to pursue their art

8

Students named AP Scholars - two
AP Scholars with Honors and six
AP Scholars

98%

Of students have plans for
postsecondary education

41%

Of students graduated with
honors (final GPA of 3.6 or higher)

81

Minnesota high schools
represented in 2026-27

29

Minnesota counties
represented in 2026-27

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THE GRADUATING CLASSES OF 2025 & 2026 POSTSECONDARY PLANS:

American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA), NY
Anoka-Ramsey Community College, MN
Apprenticeship
Augsburg University, MN
Aveda Arts & Sciences Institutes, MN
Beloit College, WI
Berklee College of Music, MA
Boston University, MA
Brigham Young University, UT
Century College, MN
Coe College, IA
The College of the Florida Keys, FL
Columbia College Chicago, IL
Columbia University, NY
Concordia College, MN
Cornell College, IA
Cornish College of the Arts, WA
DePaul University, IL
Emily Carr University of Art + Design, BC, Canada
Employment

Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, MN
Gap Year
Gustavus Adolphus College, MN
Hamline University, MN
Hennepin Technical College, MN
Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI), MO
Lake Superior College, MN
Lewis & Clark College, OR
Los Angeles College of Music (LACM), CA
Long Island University Post, NY
Maine College of Art & Design, ME
Metro State University, MN
Millikin University, IL
Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD), WI
Minneapolis College (MCTC), MN
Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD), MN
Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN
Minnesota State University Moorhead, MN
Nebraska Wesleyan University, NE
New York University, NY

Normandale Community College, MN
North Hennepin Community College, MN
Pacific Northwest College of Art, OR
Parsons School of Design | The New School, NY
Ringling College of Art and Design, FL
Rochester Community and Technical College, MN
The Salon Professional Academy Maplewood, MN
Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), GA
School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), IL
St. Catherine University, MN
St. Cloud State University, MN
St. Olaf College, MN
University of Minnesota Duluth, MN
University of Minnesota Twin Cities, MN
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, WI
University of Wisconsin - Stout, WI
Valley City State University, ND
Warren Wilson College, NC
Willamette University, OR
Winona State University, MN

College Board National Recognition: 4 School Awards, 1 First-Generation Award, 1 Rural and Small-Town Award

2026 Regional Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Art Awards Regional – 48 awards:
6 Gold Key, 13 Silver Key,
29 Honorable Mention awards

Writing Awards Regional –
3 awards: 1 Gold Key, 1 Silver
Key, 1 Honorable Mention award

Ann Bancroft Foundation Grant Recipient

First Place in 5th Congressional District Art Competition

Perpich Arts High School Counselor

Carol Syvertsen
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LEARN MORE

About Perpich arts and academic areas:
<http://perpich.mn.gov/arts-high-school/>

View the Course Registration book:
<https://perpich.mn.gov/arts-high-school/student-services/courses-scheduling/>

