

## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Holiday Art Show Celebrates the Arts at Wyncote Academy**

**(Wyncote Academy, Wyncote, PA)** – Learning early 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic tile making techniques, mastering the potter’s wheel, discovering sculpture for the first time, or simply exploring your artistic side, can be rare opportunities for students. Yet in a time when many schools across the nation are being forced to cut arts education, the fine arts program at Wyncote Academy continues to thrive and flourish.

Throughout December, a selection of student art work will be on display at the school as part of the Wyncote Academy Annual Holiday Art Show. The opening reception for the show will take place this Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

The highlight of the month-long exhibition will be works created in the Wyncote Academy ceramics studio and tile works. Featured works will include hand thrown pottery, sculptures, mosaics, and handcrafted tiles. The student art exhibit will also display works in a variety of artistic medium, created by students in grades 6 through 12. A special part of the exhibition will focus on works of art created by the “art majors,” students who are interested in pursuing art in college and are currently completing their portfolios for college interviews.

The Wyncote Ceramics Program, under the direction of art teacher Bruce Weiner, offers students the opportunity to explore sculpture, hand-building methods, wheel throwing, and tile and mosaic making. In addition to these techniques, students are educated in the history, philosophy and aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts Movement in America.

The ceramics program also utilizes many local connections to the visual arts, particularly the Temple University Tyler School of Art and the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works in Doylestown. Weiner studied the tile making methods of Henry Mercer at the Moravian Tile Works and teaches similar methods to the high school students. The results of these efforts allow high school students to experience arts and crafts on a level parallel to many more advanced levels of study.

“Art in the curriculum provides students with a means of expression divergent from the more standard fare,” says Bruce Weiner. “Opportunities abound for self-discovery, cooperative learning, and even peer mentoring. As a result of these opportunities, our school enjoys a long tradition of students attending top-notch art schools throughout the country.” According to Weiner, recent college acceptances have included such local connections as the Tyler School of Art, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and Moore College of Art.

Principal Kirk Hittinger, a former art teacher himself, agrees with Weiner on the remarkable success rate for Wyncote Academy students pursuing careers in the arts. “In a small, specialized school such as ours, with a total population of around 100 students, there are extraordinary opportunities to dedicate yourself to the arts. Almost every year, one of our graduates leaves Wyncote to major in art in college.”

The exhibition runs from Saturday, December 2, through Friday, December 22.

Wyncote Academy is a non-profit, nonsectarian independent school committed to fostering a love of learning and self-confidence in students with untapped abilities. The school is located on a 5-acre suburban campus in eastern Montgomery County.

A co-educational institution, Wyncote Academy serves grades six through twelve in a middle and upper school. Curriculum is college preparatory with emphasis on academic skills. Wyncote Academy is nationally recognized for its unique outdoor education program and distinctive program in the visual arts.

**Wyncote Academy**  
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A sample of student sculptures and tile works that will be featured at the Wyncote Academy Holiday Art Show, from Saturday, December 2, through Friday, December 22. Opening reception will be held on Saturday, December 2, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.



Wyncote Academy senior, John Casanover, from Hatboro, works on a ceramic vase.



Wyncote Academy senior, John Casanover, from Hatboro, demonstrates his pottery technique.