Dear Prospective Student,

Whether taking center stage, working behind the scenes, creating beautiful jewelry and photographs or coordinating with an ensemble, Baldwin students in the performing and visual arts have an array of opportunities to explore and hone their craft.

At Baldwin, we believe that the study of art fosters imagination, creativity and the ability to see new perspectives. That’s why visual and performing arts are woven throughout our academic programming, ensuring our girls explore creative expression and innovative thinking through music, theater, painting, drawing, ceramics, jewelry making and three-dimensional sculpture.

Our performance ensembles, including the Baldwin B-Flats, a select a cappella vocal ensemble, perform in a variety of settings and competitions throughout the region and abroad. Baldwin’s music groups have participated in performance tours in Austria, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

While challenging our girls to think differently and explore their artistic passions is our aim, Baldwin’s young artists have also been recognized with numerous awards and accolades, including a Gold Medal and the American Visions Award for ceramic sculpture from the National Scholastic Art & Writing Association, which is the highest regional honor awarded. Our students have also participated in the Tyler Clay Programs of Excellence and have won the National Association for Teachers of Singing competition and the Crescendo Competition, where the winners perform at Carnegie Hall.

Baldwin’s College Counseling Office works alongside our Art Department faculty to provide resources and support for students interested in pursuing the arts after Baldwin. Baldwin’s graduates have gone on to attend Rhode Island School of Design, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, The New School’s Parsons School of Design and Syracuse University’s architecture program, which is ranked third in the country.

Whether she pursues acting and directing, experiments with clay or different metals or simply enjoys the liberty of artistic expression, The Baldwin School offers something for every student.
The Arts have always been integral to a Baldwin student’s experience, ensuring our girls learn to think creatively and critically, make connections across genres and nurture a spirit of innovation. At The Baldwin School, our Arts program prepares students to thrive in school, in work and in life.
Music
During the course of a Baldwin girl’s music education, she will be challenged to listen, experience and produce musical sounds while singing or playing a variety of instruments.

LOWER SCHOOL
In their early years at Baldwin, students learn melodic and rhythmic skills through singing and clapping exercises, playing instruments, simple dances, games and creative listening activities. By Grade 5, the students have expanded their understanding of musical concepts such as form, harmony, dynamics and timbre through analysis of vocal, instrumental and listening samples.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
In Middle School, the elements of music come alive through playing a variety of percussion instruments and guitars and, in Grade 8, the chance to learn the art of handbell ringing. Girls interested in learning to sing participate in the Middle School Chorus and can join an advanced singing group that teaches how to improve part-singing and audition skills. The Middle School Ensemble is comprised of girls who have played string, brass and woodwind instruments for more than 2 years.

UPPER SCHOOL
In Upper School, students may choose to participate in a vocal group or musical ensemble. There are two select handbell choirs, a range of instrumental ensembles including Jazz Band and Orchestra, and three different choral group options. In addition, students can take a class in Music Theory and Arranging.
Baldwin has a strong theatrical tradition. In addition to providing a variety of performance opportunities, our theater program fosters an appreciation for the creative process and a strong understanding of the collaborative nature of the arts.

LOWER SCHOOL

Lower School students enjoy performing in grade-level productions orchestrated by their classroom teachers. Production material includes folktales, fairytales and original scripts written by the students themselves. They collaborate with the music department and often perform songs in a dramatic context.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Theater is integral to the life of a Middle School student at Baldwin. In Grade 6, drama class introduces the fundamentals of performance. In Grades 7 and 8, our girls can explore acting, directing and playwriting. Theatrical opportunities are also available through participation in Drama Club, Arts League and the Middle School Play.

UPPER SCHOOL

Students in Upper School can choose from a variety of elective classes to expand their experience in theater — everything from acting and improvisation to playwriting and stagecraft. Baldwin theater students have been honored for their participation in the Greater Philadelphia Cappies, the English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition, the Philadelphia High School Theater Independence Awards and the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival.
Visual Arts
A key aim for Baldwin’s visual arts program is to provide creative curriculum, technical development and engaging opportunities that ignite a personal passion for the arts in every student.

LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower School art room is a warm, active, friendly place, where we nurture Baldwin girls’ love of learning and visual arts. Students explore art techniques from around the world, creating Egyptian clay canopic jars, plaster-cloth pyramids, Japanese “gyotaku” scrolls and African animal intaglio prints. The girls also experiment with different media, from mixed-media self-portraits to cave art stories and color-scheme paintings, to develop individual expression and visual communication. Our youngest Baldwin Bears have the opportunity to work with clay and glazing thanks to our recently installed kiln.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Students in Middle School Art continue to develop the passion for exploration and discovery and learn foundational skills to take full advantage of the varied advanced visual arts offerings available in our Upper School. The girls investigate different media, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography and digital imagery, to establish an understanding of the elements and principles of design.

UPPER SCHOOL

In Baldwin’s Upper School, the study of art fosters imagination, creativity and the ability to see new perspectives. Students experience art in multiple forms — exploring perceptual painting and drawing, imaginative sculpture and ceramics and new technologies in jewelry making. Each medium allows students to learn and understand new artistic and technical methods. In addition, our art history course enhances our girls’ interdisciplinary exploration of the visual arts.
The Baldwin Conservatory offers private instruction, on campus, for a wide range of musical instruments including piano, voice, violin, viola, flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, trumpet, trombone, guitar, ukulele, banjo and harp. These lessons are given to Baldwin students before, during and after the school day, and participation in a recital is encouraged.

The Conservatory is staffed by award-winning musicians who have performed at renowned concert halls around the world, sharing their talents in New York, Philadelphia, St. Petersburg, Moscow and other North American and European cities.
BRAVA is Baldwin’s parent group that focuses on supporting and promoting the arts. Committee members include parents, as well as Baldwin faculty and staff. BRAVA helps plan Baldwin’s Arts Week celebrations, enjoys trips to Broadway shows in New York City and gathers for local outings to art galleries and theaters. The organization also hosts a bi-annual Benefit for the Arts, which is an exciting evening of music, live performances and fine arts with all proceeds directly benefiting the arts at Baldwin.
The Simpson Center for the Performing Arts
The Baldwin School’s performing arts center, The Simpson Center for the Performing Arts in Honor of Lois Goutman, is a state-of-the-art facility that accommodates student performances ranging from an intimate piano recital for 50 guests to full-scale theatrical productions for an audience of 300.

Whether she is pursuing acting and directing, experimenting with professional lighting and sound equipment or simply enjoying the liberty of artistic expression, The Simpson Center offers something for every student. It features prime acoustics and lighting, flexible stage and seating configurations and a control room with the latest technology, allowing our students to learn the ins and outs of theater production. The lobby — complete with ticketing and concession counters — and the adjacent green room play host to rehearsals, art exhibits, lectures and other school events.

The Simpson Center creates a hub for creativity, innovation and learning in the visual and performing arts at Baldwin.