

Fairfax Collegiate
2026 Summer Program
Photography Course Syllabus
Rising Grades 7-9



Course Description

Tell stories with still images.

Develop artistic and technical skills. Learn composition, exposure, and lighting. Create photos of still life scenes, products, food, portraits, and sports.

Use DSLR cameras, prime lenses, zoom lenses, light sources, reflectors, and modifiers. Edit photos with open source software.

Students in Photography express their creativity, pay attention to details, and capture the world through a camera lens. They explore photography as both an art and a technical skill. With clear guidance, hands-on practice, and supportive feedback, students build confidence as they learn to take and edit photographs with purpose and control.

Students experiment with DSLR cameras while exploring shutter speed, aperture, white balance, lenses, and lighting. They take nature shots, portraits, abstract images, and action photos, then learn to refine their work through digital editing and Photoshop techniques. As the course progresses, they create a final photoset designed to express a specific mood or idea, practicing both artistic vision and technical skill.

Families receive digital copies of students’ final photography projects, showcasing their creativity and growth. Students leave the course with stronger visual awareness, improved technical skills, and a deeper appreciation for photography as a powerful form of expression.

Learning Objectives

Course Goals	Photography: Students learn how to properly take photos with a DSLR camera with various settings, and they learn how to edit the photos.
Course Topics	Overview of Photography: Students learn the history of photography and its various uses. Photography Equipment: Students learn the parts of a camera and the different effects that can

	<p>be performed.</p> <p>Nature: Students practice taking photographs of nature and editing them.</p> <p>Color: Students learn how to control color and exposure in their photographs.</p> <p>Lighting: Students learn how lighting affects photos and learn the appropriate usage of flash.</p> <p>Portraits: Students take portrait photographs and edit them.</p> <p>Action Photographs: Students learn how to effectively take action photographs and edit them.</p> <p>Final Photoset: Students create a set of images that convey a particular mood or idea.</p>
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Course Schedule

Class Meeting 1	<p>Introduction: Students introduce themselves and receive an overview of the course content.</p> <p>Capturing an Image: Students learn the basic principles of photography with emphasis on exposure.</p> <p>Shutter Speed: Students complete an activity to explore the effects of changing shutter speed on photography.</p>
Class Meeting 2	<p>White Balance: Students learn how to adjust white balance to capture realistic color in various lighting.</p> <p>Aperture: Students learn how to control how much light enters into a picture to focus it.</p>
Class Meeting 3	<p>Lenses: Students discuss different types of camera lenses and how they affect an image.</p> <p>Nature and Abstract Photos: Students take nature and abstract pictures, then learn how to manipulate them on the computer.</p>
Class Meeting 4	<p>Digital Manipulation: Students manipulate photos they took the previous day while learning more effects that can be made.</p> <p>Lighting: Students learn how to manipulate the lighting while taking a photograph, including the use of flash.</p>
Class Meeting 5	<p>Portraits: Students take pictures of one another using various methods, props, and lighting.</p>
Class Meeting 6	<p>Photoshop: Students learn how to manipulate photographs using Photoshop specifically.</p>
Class Meeting 7	<p>Action Photographs: Students take and edit action photographs of each other.</p>

Class Meeting 8	Introduction to Final Assignment: Students learn about their final project and begin taking photographs for it.
Class Meeting 9	Final Assignment Continuation: Students continue work on their final assignment and begin editing their photos.
Class Meeting 10	Conclusion: Students display their final assignments and put them on a CD to be viewed by others.