

Dear Friends,

Happy new year from all of us at The Academy!

It's so hard to believe that the school year is already half over. Just a few short months ago we welcomed the Class of 2025 to our campus with our traditional greeting: "welcome home". And, because of the pandemic, the Class of 2024 (now our tenth graders) began attending classes on campus full time for the first time.

While the pandemic continues to present challenges for schools everywhere, our community has risen to the challenge and continues to produce incredible work from across the school. Already this year each of our departments has demonstrated top work in public exhibitions, recitals, shows, concerts, and more, and it feels like we're just getting started.

Of course, the spirit of every fall is characterized by the Annual AIDS Benefit, and this year's production was another incredible success, raising more than \$13,000 for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Congratulations to the cast and crew!

We hope that you will join us for our 40th Anniversary Gala, scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at the Radisson Blu Hotel. See the inside for more details!

Amidst all of the successes of our students (and the heroic work of their teachers), we continue to mourn the passing of two Academy legends: Alice Gold and Pat Rusk. Both were foundational to the spirit and success of our school, and their presence will be felt in our community for many generations to come. Rest in peace, dear friends: we owe you both an enormous debt of gratitude.

We hope you will join us and Pat's family and friends for a celebration of her life on [Friday, February 25 at 7:00 PM.](#)

Finally, I have some important news about my health. Please see [page 17](#) for more details.

We hope you'll enjoy this newsletter. Happy new year, friends!

Jason Patera
Head of School

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BACK TO SCHOOL



HALLOWEEN AT THE ACADEMY



AIDS BENEFIT



AIDS BENEFIT



VISUAL ARTS FALL EXHIBITION



HEAD OVER HEELS



INSIDE THE DANCE WING



JAZZ AT FULTON STREET COLLECTIVE



Photos by Harvey Tillis Photography

THRILLER Media Arts Fall Festival



[VIEW SHOW HERE](#)

MEN ON BOATS



A NOTE FROM ADMISSIONS



The Chicago Academy for the Arts is still accepting 2022-2023 applications for students in 9th through 11th grades. During rolling admissions, applications will be considered based on grade and art department availability and applicants will be contacted by the Admissions Office to schedule an audition on an individual basis. The first step of the application process is to learn more about The Academy through our events and programs. You may also register for our Spring Saturday Program and 2022 Summer Program. We look forward to guiding you through our process and learning more about you and your family!

Amanda Avery Director of Enrollment Management
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Nina Karakos Admissions Associate
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SUMMER PROGRAM 2022

The Academy offers a two week-long in-person summer intensive for students who will be in 7th, 8th or 9th grades in the fall of 2022. Each day begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. The program culminates in a final showcase where parents are invited to view what the students have learned and accomplished throughout the program. Please contact Tim Butler, Director of Summer and Saturday Programs, at tbutler@chicagoartsacademy.org with any questions, and see below for more information about each program.



Summer Program Details

Who: The Academy Summer Program is for students going into the 7th, 8th & 9th grades in the fall of 2022. The program is for students serious about the arts.

What: See below for details. The registration fee for enrollment is \$895.

Where: The Chicago Academy for the Arts 1010 W. Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60642

When: The 2022 Summer Program will run June 20 - July 1 (excluding the weekend).

REGISTER FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM

2022 SPRING SATURDAY PROGRAM

The Academy offers four-week Saturday programs for students currently in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Session One of this year's Spring program runs Saturday, March 5 - Saturday, March 26, 2022. Session Two runs Saturday, April 9 - Saturday, April 30, 2022. Click below to get started and to read more about each program.

Who: The Academy Saturday Program (spring session) is for students currently in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. The program is for students serious about the arts.

What: 4 or 8 week arts intensives in Dance, Media Arts, Music, Theatre & Musical Theatre, and Visual Arts. Registration price for one session is \$200. Registration price for two sessions is \$375.

Where: 1010 West Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

When: Session One of this year's Spring program runs Saturday, March 5 - Saturday, March 26, 2022. Session Two runs Saturday, April 9 - Saturday, April 30, 2022. Each program begins at 10:00 a.m. and concludes at 12:00 p.m.

[REGISTER FOR SPRING SATURDAYS](#)



ALUMNI UPDATES



Jamie Weiss

Since arriving in L.A., Jamie Weiss has designed and decorated dozens of music videos, short films, commercials, and features. Between bold colors and retro elements, Jamie's work is requested by some of L.A.'s top contemporary artists such as Clairo and Elsie Fisher.

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)

Emma Thatcher & Sarah Franke

Emma Thatcher and Sarah Franke finished their feature-length film in 2021, *Provo*. With Emma in the director's chair and Sarah producing, the two created a moving story about reckoning with family and faith. They raised the money for the film through an online fundraising campaign.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Eleri Ward

Eleri Ward recently released a full-length Sondheim Indie-Folk album which caught the attention of Josh Groban. Between her reimagined Sondheim work and her original songs, Eleri is performing several shows in 2022. Eleri's work has been featured in Forbes and American Songwriter Magazine.



DeMone Seraphin

Award-winning director, actor, and producer DeMone Seraphin has appeared on Broadway nationally and internationally in “Miss Saigon”, “Rent”, “J.C. Superstar”, and so much more. Now residing as the Founding Artistic Director for the New American Theatre Co., DeMone is teaching the world about the importance of integrity in the arts.

ALUMNI UPDATES



Jeremy Long

Jeremy Long began his formal arts education in the late 1980's at The Academy, where he spent his time studying art history, drawing, and printmaking. Jeremy's September Bowery Gallery show premiered pieces he's been working on for 2-3 years.

[READ FULL INTERVIEW](#)

Tyler Schwartz

After developing Story Time Chess, a fun game designed to teach kids as young as 3 how to play chess, Tyler and the team won the Toy Association's Toy of the Year Award in 2021. The small team beat out massive companies like Hasbro, Disney, and Lego for the People's Choice Award.



A NOTE FROM JASON PATERA

Dear Friends,

I'm writing with some important personal health news that impacts the Academy community.

After managing some concerning symptoms for many months, an MRI has revealed a large (likely benign) brain tumor that has grown to such a size that requires major surgery in the weeks ahead.

My surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15. While the **risk of life-threatening complications is very low**, I have been counseled to expect a difficult recovery. Sadly, I will be on leave from The Academy from February 12 through (barring unforeseen complications) April 10.

During this time, I am thrilled that Audrey Perrott will serve as The Academy's Acting Head of School. Audrey is the Head of School Emeritus at Near North Montessori School, where she served in a variety of capacities for three decades before "retiring" last spring. (Fun fact: The Academy replaced NNMS as the tenant at 1010 W. Chicago in 1992.)

Audrey is a legend in the Chicago independent school world and a dear personal friend, and I have tremendous faith in her experience, expertise, and desire to support our community during this time. Further, I have absolute confidence in the leadership, expertise, and spirit of our board, administration, faculty, and staff. Between them and Audrey, our community is in great hands.

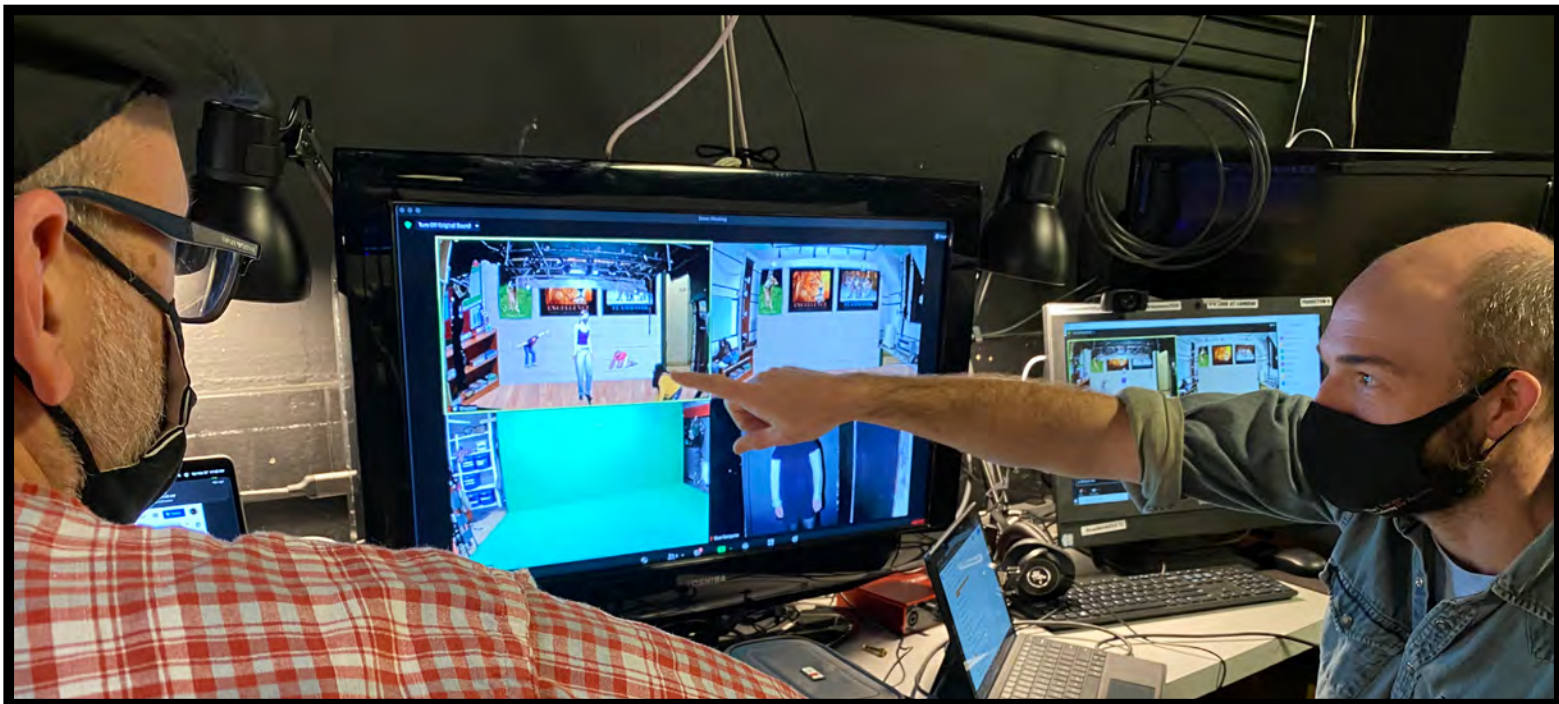
Please know that I am in a very good place emotionally. I am filled with gratitude for my incredible good fortune (which is highlighted in a very poignant way by a diagnosis like this), and I am entering this situation embracing the idea that "the path is the teacher". My spirits are high, and I'm looking forward to finding humor and good stories in this wherever possible. (Plus, I've been promised a very serious-looking scar.)

Thank you, friends, for your support and goodwill in the weeks ahead. While I won't be able to respond to school-related matters, I'd love to hear from you while I'm out! I'm eager to spend the weeks ahead checking out artwork of any discipline that you find inspiring so send me a note and some links via our acting Director of Development, [Evan Pazkowski](#).

Jason Patera
Head of School

THE ACADEMY IN THE MEDIA

“She Kills Monsters” on CBS2 Chicago



[READ FULL ARTICLE HERE](#)

[VIEW SHOW HERE](#)

ACADEMY MERCH & APPAREL



The Academy Merch Store is back!

The Chicago Academy for the Arts is happy to introduce a re-vamped merch store for the 2021-2022 school year. Show your Academy spirit with our new and expanded inventory. Click below to view and purchase Academy merch! More items will be available soon.

[VIEW ACADEMY MERCH STORE](#)

COMING UP AT THE ACADEMY

FEBRUARY

10: Black Excellence and Jubilation Show

11: Music Department Black Composers Concert

MARCH

4: End of Quarter 3

16: Media Arts Spring Festival

25: Visual Arts Senior Exhibition

25: Theatre Spring Play

APRIL

15: Music Department Spring Concert

22: Musical Theatre Spring Musical
First Weekend

29: Media Arts Senior Showcase

29: Musical Theatre Spring Musical
Second Weekend

MAY

6: Visual Arts Spring Exhibition

7: Icons of Choreography Dance Concert

13: End of Quarter 4

13: Prom (tentative)

16: Academic Final Exams

20: Graduation

FOLLOW US

Be sure to follow The Academy on social media
(Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)!

We use the hashtags #SmartArtistsSmartArt,
#ArtMatters, and #CAArts

The Chicago
Academy for the Arts

