2020-21 School Programs

Docent-led school programs are offered free of charge for K-12 students Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- School groups are encouraged to extend their visit after 11:30 a.m. and explore the grounds and galleries.
- School groups must have at least 25 students to reserve a program, with at least one chaperone per ten students.
- Programs are not offered on the first Thursdays of the month.
- Visit huntington.org/school-programs for more information.

Program offerings are subject to change.

Art Programs

American Art
Students explore American artworks from 18th century art and design of everyday life, to 19th century Hudson River School Landscapes through to 20th century pop art. Focused in the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art, theme-based tours encourage students to look, think, and discuss their ideas and perceptions.

Grade Level: 4–12
Accommodates: 50 student maximum
Offered: Thursdays and Fridays

European Art
Students explore The Huntington's collections, focusing specifically on European art displayed in the home of Henry and Arabella Huntington - one of the great Gilded Age residences in America. Students will take an in-depth look at paintings, sculptures and decorative arts.

Grade Levels: 4–12
Accommodates: 50 student maximum
Offered: Wednesdays, Select Thursdays

Discovering Art
Students explore the elements of line, shape, color and texture through dialogue and tactile materials, visiting a variety of artworks, from portraits to sculpture, housed in and around the original home of Henry and Arabella Huntington. At the end of the program, students engage in a hands-on activity that combines all four elements.

Grades Levels: K–3
Accommodates: 50 student maximum
Offered: Select Fridays

Interdisciplinary Programs

Explorations in American History
Students explore how society responded to major events in America’s past and learn how diverse peoples lived throughout its history. Students look closely at primary sources in the Library Exhibition Hall and at artworks in the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art. Materials may include manuscripts, books, portraits, and furniture.

Grade Levels: 5, 8, 11
Complements American History Curriculum
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Wednesdays

Learning Through the Collections
Students learn what it means to collect, while exploring the diversity and connections between The Huntington's library, art, and botanical collections.

Grade Levels: 3–12
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Wednesdays
Garden Programs

Adaptations in a Changing World
Students explore the adaptations that allow plants to thrive in desert-like environments. Through observation and hands-on activities in the Desert Garden, students will learn how plants’ color, shape, and surface texture can be adaptive and to predict how plant forms help them function in a changing environment. Students also compare desert plants to those in other Huntington gardens.

Grade Levels: 3–5
Accommodates: 30–60 student maximum
Offered: Select Wednesdays; Select Thursdays

Seeds, Soil & Surprises
Students discover the joys of sensory learning while visiting stations on roots, leaves, and seeds. Classes visit both the Teaching Greenhouse and the Conservatory for Botanical Science. Each student plants their own seeds to take back to the classroom.

Grade Levels: K–2
Kindergarten groups can visit Jan.–May
Accommodates: 50 student maximum
Offered: Wednesdays

Japanese Garden
Presented by the San Marino League:
Presented by the San Marino League, this program introduces students to traditional Japanese gardens as an art form and contrasts them with traditional European-style gardens. Students visit a 19th-century Japanese house and Zen garden, and examine garden sculpture and native Japanese plants. During the program students will have the opportunity to wonder and to enjoy moments of serenity.

Grade Levels: 4–12
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Select Wednesdays; Select Thursdays

Creating the Chinese Garden
Students engage their senses and minds in an exploration of the Chinese Garden – Liu Fang Yuan, or the Garden of Flowing Fragrance. Through close looking and conversation, students learn about the elements of the garden, consider the people who designed it, and produce their own creative responses inspired by their senses.

Previously ‘Poetry in the Chinese Garden’

Grade Levels: 4–12
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Select Thursdays

Library Programs

Discovering Medieval Books
Students discover the ways in which medieval books were printed and produced, how inks were made, the difference between parchment and paper, and the roles of the medieval scribes and printers. In the Library Hall, students look closely at original manuscripts, including Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales as well as early printed treasures, such as the Gutenberg Bible. Students complete the program by trying their hand at calligraphy and bookbinding.

Previously ‘Paper, Pens, and Prose’

Grade Levels: 4–9
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Thursdays

Remarkable Works, Remarkable Times
Students discuss and decipher the fascinating stories that primary source documents reveal in the Library Exhibition Hall. Students delve into literature and history, exploring the expansive collection of items ranging from Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales to a First Folio edition of Shakespeare’s collected plays to relics of the American West.

Grade Levels: 8–12
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Select Fridays

Beautiful Science
Students discover how great ideas in science have changed over time. Exploring the exhibition Beautiful Science: Ideas That Changed the World, students analyze primary sources to determine the exhibition’s main messages, share their findings, and formulate new questions.

Grade Levels: 7–12
Accommodates: 40 student maximum
Offered: Select Fridays