

Visual Arts Curriculum

The visual arts curriculum is designed helps create innovative thinkers and self-directed learners. While promoting independence and high level thinking, visual arts also improves fine motor skills. Fine motor skills and creativity are both important skills that can be applied to many subject areas and careers.

Students learn to communicate through art by combining writing and art as well as improving their ability to portray ideas through images. Art students become more open minded and analytical.

6th Grade: Art as Communication

Sixth graders learn the elements of art with an emphasis on line. Students begin intentionally applying elements of art in projects that use a variety of media including clay, paint, charcoal and pencil. Students become familiar with famous artwork when it is used for project inspiration. During sixth grade, students learn lots of art vocabulary terms that help them become ready to discuss, understand, and execute increasingly complex artwork.

7th Grade: Cultural Art

Seventh graders expand on the elements of art as they learn the principles of design like balance and unity. Color is a focus as students are asked to create their own colors to use on projects. Leading artists and cultural art are used for project inspiration. The techniques and studies that led artists to their greatest work are discussed. Media used includes paint, clay, pastels, pencil, and ink. Students begin to choose between media to complete a project.

8th Grade: Modern Art

Eighth graders apply their knowledge of the elements and principals or art to make compositions that reflect their understanding of composition, texture, color, line, balance, form, and using space effectively. Value is part of many projects as the execution of value creates more sophisticated 2-dimensional artwork. Sculpture is the area where students begin to realize the benefit of negative space in artwork. Students make many choices about their artwork and create mixed media art. Media used includes collage materials, clay, painting on canvas as well as all types of pastels.

The modern purposes of art in advertising and promoting ideas for production are practiced and discussed. Successful, recent artists, inspire student projects. Art students will be ready to apply the skills and content they have learned to art courses in high school.