

Aesthetics

Students develop skills of observation and learn to examine the objects and events of their lives. They grow in their ability to describe, interpret, evaluate, and respond to work in the visual arts. Through examination of their own work and that of other people, times and places, students learn to look at artwork and appraise its purpose and value.

Through choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, materials, symbols and ideas, students learn to explore and understand prospective content for works of art. They select and use subject matter, materials, symbols, objects and ideas to communicate meaning in their artwork. As a result of these direct interactions, students learn to see through the eyes of an artist. Students develop aesthetic perceptions by learning to use such thinking skills as discrimination, comparison, contrast and elaboration. Instruction in these early aesthetic interactions provides a basis for making informed judgments.

Study in aesthetics promotes students' thinking, working, communicating, reasoning, and investigating skills. As students achieve standards, they become familiar with the ideas, concept issues, dilemmas, and knowledge important in the visual arts. Students continue to learn about and develop their own criteria for analyzing and responding to art. Appreciation for the arts is studied and methods for defending philosophical positions are explored. Recognizing unique characteristics of art media and how to make decisions about processes for improving and completing artworks are also studied.

Art Criticism

Students learn the characteristics of the visual arts by using a wide range of subject matter, symbols, meaningful images and visual expressions to express their ideas and to evaluate the merits of their efforts. They develop vocabularies and learn concepts associated with various types of work in the visual arts. They begin to exhibit competence in visual, aural, oral, and written form about the art being viewed. They develop and apply effective analytic thinking, writing, and speaking skills. Students understand and evaluate influences of the individual personality of the artist, cultural traditions of the artist and the materials and technology at the time the artist is creating.

Through the integration of cognitive and manipulative exploration of the visual world, students are making choices that enhance communication of their ideas. Students' natural inquisitiveness is promoted. They learn the value of critical decision-making by reflecting on and assessing the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others. They learn that the development of specific artworks are influenced by people's experiences and are encouraged to understand and respect responses of others to specific artworks.

Students learn a process for interpreting and critiquing artworks. Organizational principles and how the visual arts complement the other disciplines are also studied. The structures, expressive qualities, and functions of art are studied as well as how they can be used as frameworks for analyzing and evaluating art.

Production

Students develop and expand visual arts knowledge and skills in order to express their ideas creatively and effectively. They enjoy a rich choice of media and activities that involve a wide variety of tools, techniques and processes. These activities involve the cognitive abilities of being able to Identify, Analyze, Ideate, Select, Implement and Evaluate.* There is a developmental sequence of skills to express ideas and concepts. Students learn to work independently and cooperatively. They use different media, technology, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and concepts. They learn to make choices that enhance communication of ideas. Students recognize that there are various opportunities in art related careers.

The visual arts provide a framework that promotes students' thinking, working, communicating, reasoning and investigative skills. As students gain related knowledge and skills they gain in their ability to make applications in the visual arts. Students develop works of visual art that reflect the maturation of their creative and problem-solving skills. Through sequentially planned art experiences, they grow in their ability to apply knowledge and skills in the visual arts. They create products that reflect their thoughts, actions and add new directions to their widening personal worlds. As a component of the Product/Performance Strand, students continue to develop skills in the use of media, techniques, technology and processes. They study the structures and functions (Elements and Principles) of art. Emphasis is placed on skill refinement and creative thinking, abilities that are valued by a variety of careers.

While the visual arts range from folk arts, drawing and painting to sculpture and design; from architecture to film and video, any of these media can be used to help students meet the educational goals embodied in the performance standards. For example, any of the visual arts can be used for the basis for creative activity, historical and cultural investigations, or analysis through standards. The visual arts involve tools, technology, techniques and process, all of which provide opportunities for working toward the achievement of the standards.

*Roukes, Art Synectics

Historical/Cultural Context

Students develop skills of observation and learn to examine the objects and events of their lives in historical and/or cultural context. From examination of their own work and that of other people, times and places, students learn to find meaning in artwork and to appraise its purpose and value by knowing that the visual arts have history and specific relationships to various cultures.

Learning activities relate works of art to the historical and cultural contexts in which they were created and how technological advances have effected development of art and expression. They learn about art heritage in terms of time and places. Studying about artists, their contributions and ways of communicating cultural values and beliefs of people through the visual arts are essential for developing appreciation for their own aesthetic values and those of other cultures. Relationships among art forms and between students' own work and that of others are also emphasized.