

Visual Arts Course Descriptions

Intro to Art (6th Grade/Quarter-Long)

In this primarily hands-on class, students will learn: 1) basic studio procedures, 2) the art appreciation/criticism process, 3) methods and media, and 4) creative thinking and concept development. Students will be expected to work diligently, explore, discover, take risks, fail, succeed, re-do projects, and most importantly, complete projects.

Artistic Exploration (7th Grade/Semester-Long)

Explore drawing, painting, and printmaking, as 2D work and invent 3D artist books. This course is for those students who love creating both 2D and 3D projects.

3D Media (7th Grade/Semester-Long)

Explore a variety of 3D media including wire, cardboard, paper, clay, and wood.

Elements of Drawing (7th Grade/Semester-Long)

Explore basic drawing techniques and skills through the use of the elements and principles of design.

Elements of Clay (7th Grade/Semester-Long)

Explore basic hand-building skills for sculptural expression and functional application through the use of the elements and principles of design.

Art Fundamentals (8th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

In this introductory visual art class, students will use a variety of media such as pencil, pen, paint, clay, wire, wood while developing basic skills for succeeding in a visual arts concentration. These skills include: step-by-step project development, daily work habits, and understanding of visual arts terms. *Visual Arts Concentration starter course.*

Media and Design (8th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Develop 2D and 3D design skills using a variety of media such as pencil, pen, paint, clay, wire, wood, digital photography. While primarily a hands-on course, there is an art history component that explores how artists have made works in other time periods.

Beginning 2D (9th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Develop skills in a variety of two-dimensional media, including drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed-media. Learn various processes and techniques which range from drawing from direct observation to imagination-based works. Students will begin to develop meaning in their work.

Beginning 3D (9th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Using clay and other 3D media, explore hand-building skills for sculptural expression and functional application.

Photo I (9th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Using Point and Shoot digital cameras students will concentrate on learning design and composition for a semester. Once basic mastery of these principles is established, the students will move on to using digital SLR's to exercise further image control over their assignments. As they work, students will also learn about PhotoShop using guided lessons to help them manipulate their images effectively

Intermediate 2D (10th-12th Grade/Year-Long) – Completer Course

Using a variety of two-dimensional media, students will further explore concepts and processes with greater depth and independence and will be expected to select media and techniques appropriately. Students will view and discuss the works of various artists and apply those processes and ways of thinking to their artmaking to make work of personal and social relevance.

Intermediate 3D (10th-12th Grade/Year-Long) – Completer Course

Learn to use a potter's wheel and refine hand-building techniques for functional and sculptural works. Also, incorporating other materials: wood, wire, found objects. Emphasis on concept development through sketching and model building.

Photo II (10th-12th Grade/Year-Long) – Completer Course

Students will use digital cameras and studio lighting to make more interpretive images that tell stories. With Photo Illustration as their goal, students will also have the opportunity to write their own assignments to customize the curriculum to their interests.

Visual Arts Course Descriptions (continued)

Advanced 2D Honors (11th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Students will refine technique as well as explore new and experimental approaches to drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed-media. Working individually and in collaboration, students will research contemporary artists and methods to make personally and socially relevant work in a Big Ideas framework. An emphasis will be placed on process and inquiry. Students at this level will be expected to establish the work habits of independent, professional artists to make portfolio-quality work.

Advanced 3D Honors (11th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Develop a portfolio of work as you learn to effectively communicate ideas through the additive processes and composition principles. Along with continued use of materials such as clay, wire, paper, cardboard, and other materials; emphasis will be placed on woodshop skills and techniques.

Photo III Honors (11th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

This honors level course is intended for students who want to major or minor in photography in college. It is an intensive year of photography assignments designed to explore storytelling and practical issues associated with presenting photography. Students will focus on portfolio building, cut mats and study photographic history.

Portfolio Development (12th Grade/Year-Long)

Create a portfolio that represents your work as an emerging artist. You will document your senior course work and formally present it to both school and post-secondary Arts representatives. Seniors will also present their work at DSA's Senior Thesis Exhibition. An emphasis will be placed on student-directed projects. This is an honors level course. This course will align with the AP curriculum but without submission of the final portfolio. A summer assignment will be required.

AP 2D Studio (12th Grade/Year-Long)

This course will follow the AP curriculum that includes three categories: breadth, quality and concentration. All projects are designed to provide a college-level experience. All students will be required to assemble and submit their portfolio as the "exam." Work outside of class time will be required, including a summer assignment.

AP 3D Studio (12th Grade/Year-Long)

This course will follow the AP curriculum that includes three categories: breadth, quality and concentration. All projects are designed to provide a college-level experience. All students will be required to assemble and submit a portfolio as the "exam." Work outside of class time will be required, including a summer assignment.

AP Drawing Studio (12th Grade/Year-Long)

Students in this class will pursue drawing, painting, printmaking and other art processes to develop 24-29 works of art which demonstrate strong emphasis on markmaking, strength of drawing from life, developing line quality, value range, and compositions which stress drawing abilities as their consistent underlying structure. An on-going investigation of varied media (breadth), a focus during the second semester on a concentration important to each student, and quality work are included and required for a May submission for judging through AP College Board. The rigorous standards require students to work throughout the entire 2 period class. Summer assignment required.

Photo IV – AP 2D Design (12th Grade/Year-Long)

This course gives students the freedom to design their own assignments. Based on a portfolio revue young photographers plumb their strengths and weaknesses to discover what they truly need to focus on to make their collection of work its very best. Assignments range from creating color that can only be seen by the camera to working in 3-D with translucent images. Students must prepare to submit a proposal that includes a brief biography, their short and long term goals for the year and a list of 18, well considered, assignment ideas.

AP Art History (11th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Students receive an elective credit upon completion of the class. This is an intensive year-long course in which the student can receive college credit at participating universities. AP Art History offers a chronological survey of Western art from the dawn of civilization to the present time. Non-Western art will also be covered. The course gives emphasis on the unique position and role played by the artist and the work of art, its context, and the critic. Special attention is given to our interpretation of a work of art based upon its intended use, audience, and role in a particular society. As a survey course, the material is approached as an introduction to the discipline. Two goals of the course are to encourage the student to pursue further study in college as well as become versed in the visual language of art. Summer assignment is required.

Visual Arts Survey (11th-12th Grade/Year-Long)

Using a variety of mediums including photography, digital design, drawing, sculpture and printmaking, students will explore art and art history in this course specifically designed for students who are not in a Visual Arts concentration.