

Department: Visual Art

Course Name: Foundations in Art

Course Description:

This semester course is designed for 9th and 10th grade students. Foundations assignments build on concepts and skills that have been introduced in the middle school art classes. The course gives students an opportunity to experience the variety of media we offer while continuing to develop their skills and vocabulary before moving on to the variety of specialized classes offered in our upper school fine art curriculum. Projects will include traditional wet and dry materials as well as an introduction to ceramics.

Although studio production is an important component of this course, students will also take time to explore application techniques and processes. Learning how to think critically and analyze work will be another important component of this course.

For 9th and 10th grade students this course is a prerequisite for all other visual art classes

Content:

Elements and principles of design

Compositional Design

Expanded visual art vocabulary

Drawing techniques

Linear Perspective

Color Theory

An introduction to the chemistry of ceramics

An introduction to clay building techniques

An introduction to the glazing and firing process

Skills:

Plan and design balanced two-dimensional compositions

Practice the use of specific tools and equipment.

Practice drawing exercises

Apply design plans to final works

Develop fine motor skill control with a variety of media

Apply observational skills to work

Create successful compositions using the elements and principles of art

Construct work using pinch clay building methods

Practice and apply tactile and visual surface treatment

Store and support work throughout all processes

Understand and practice artistic integrity throughout all the work produced in this course.

Prepare and submit work for displays, exhibits and juried shows

Recognize strengths and weaknesses in their work as well as the work of their peers through the process of critique and written evaluation

Text and Materials:

Equipment, tools and materials appropriate to this course.

Students do not use a textbook.

Information is gathered online, as well as from videos and reference books.

The fee for this course is \$60 to cover consumable project materials for the semester.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture and discussion accompanied by visuals
Slide show and video presentations
Demonstration of projects broken into sequential steps
Guided practice
Individual instruction
Peer coaching
Class critiques

Methods of Evaluation:

Grade contracts that include investment, accountability, and participation
Resolution of assignments that reflect both strong technical aspects and creative decisions
Clean craftsmanship with attention to detail, and follow through of all refining steps
Timely completion of major class assignments according to clearly stated objectives
Homework assignments
Submission of assignments into student Google Drive folders
Studio work beyond class time
Class participation during both discussions and critiques
Appropriate use of class time
Appropriate use and care of media, tools, studio equipment and space

