Department: Visual Art
Course Name: Photography 1- Developing a Visual Narrative

Course Description:
This semester-long course is open to students in grades nine through twelve and introduces students to photography as both a traditional and contemporary art form. Students will develop a foundational understanding of how cameras function, including exposure, focus, composition, lighting, and visual narrative, while sourcing and creating their own photographic imagery.

Building upon these traditional foundations, students will explore how photography has expanded within contemporary art and visual culture through digital editing, image manipulation, and time-based media. Using industry-standard digital tools such as Adobe Photoshop, as well as introductory practices in film and animation, students will investigate how images can be altered, sequenced, and combined to communicate conceptual ideas.

Throughout the course, students will engage in project-based learning that emphasizes experimentation, creative problem-solving, and intentional decision-making. Class discussions, written reflection, and critique will support students in developing visual literacy and artistic voice. This course prepares students for advanced studio art coursework and encourages critical engagement with the image-saturated world they navigate daily. Prerequisite: Foundations

Content:
Digital photography
The photographic process
Master and contemporary photographers
Digital editing
Content specific vocabulary
Art criticism
Matting and presentation

Skills:
Understand and practice artistic integrity throughout all the work produced in this course
Operate a digital camera
Operate a phone camera
Digital editing
Create work that reflects conceptual ideas through documentation
Create successful compositions using the elements and principles of art
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
Creation of a body of work that reflects the synthesis of conceptual ideas, technical skill and the creative process

Text and Materials:
Equipment, tools and materials appropriate to course
Information is gathered online as well as from videos and reference books
This course will have a $60 fee to cover the Affinity Photo App. as well as consumable printing and matting supplies.

Methods of Instruction:
Demonstration of projects broken down into sequential steps
Guided dialogue accompanied by visuals
Guided practice and individual instruction
Guided interactive instruction using digital applicants like Padlet, Nearpod and Flipgrid
Collaborative class critique

Methods of Evaluation:
Sharing and Collaboration
Grading contracts that include investment, accountability, and participation
Resolution of assignments that reflect assignments' expectations
Collaborative class critique
Demonstration of leadership