

The Department's Educational Philosophy

Art is essential in education. Students engage in art production, art history, art criticism and discussion of aesthetics to broaden their understanding of self and community, to place the arts in an historical and cultural context, and to experience the arts as a universal form of human expression and communication.

Guiding Principles

The art curriculum does the following:

- Emphasizes development of students' skills and understanding of creating and responding.
- Teaches the language inherent in the four disciplines: art production, art history, art criticism, aesthetics.
- Enables students to apply both imagination and rational thinking to the making of art.
- Enables students to invent and explore multiple solutions to a problem.
- Enables students to understand the value of reflection and critical judgment in creative work.
- Promotes knowledge and understanding of the historical and cultural context of the arts – how world cultures have been influenced and shaped by the arts.
- Facilitates positive peer interaction, including receiving and using feedback.
- Encourages self-motivation to create and problem solve.
- Uses artistic literacy as a natural enhancement to learning in other content areas.
- Fosters positive attitudes toward art and opinions of other artists.
- Uses a variety of assessment methods to evaluate what students know and are able to do.
- Introduces career possibilities.

ART 2 EXPLORATORY: GRADE 8

Course Frequency: Meets every day for a quarter of the year (45 class meetings)

Credits Offered: None

Prerequisites: Art I

Background to the Curriculum

Before 1995 Art II was a full-year elective course. Since 1995, when it became a half-year elective course, Art II has had many iterations. The following school year it became a required exploratory program for grade 8 students, meeting every other day for a third of the year, and later, when enrollment increased, it became a quarter-year course. Although almost all grade 8 students continued to take Art II as a required exploratory, for at least one year a project-based team had no scheduled art period but worked with the art teacher to do special projects. Presently Art II is a required exploratory course that all grade 8 students take for a quarter of the year.

Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills

Students will explore the idea that art is a visual language that comes complete with a distinct vocabulary (The Elements and Principles of Art) that can be manipulated by the individual to convey a message, idea or feeling. Students will make this discovery by talking about, viewing, critiquing and creating art in a variety of mediums. The core concept of this course is that students leave the Art II program understanding an artist's role in society, past and present, as well as realizing that art is a valid form of self-expression and creative problem solving.

- Elements of Design Unit: Review of Elements/Introduction To Principles
- Life Drawing Unit: Proportion Human Face
- Painting Unit: Illustrating a Concept
- Narrative Sculpture Unit
- Computer Art Unit: Unity and Balance

Learning Objectives

- 1] Elements of Design Unit: Review of Elements/Introduction to Principles
 - Students will become familiar with the language/ vocabulary of visual art.
 - Emphasis is placed on visual discovery exercises that produce an opportunity for students to make their own connections to the visual language.
- 2] Life Drawing Unit: Proportion/Human Face
 - Students will explore basic drawing approaches that will help them understand how to render objects and people more realistically.
 - Emphasis is placed on blind/observed self portraits, face and body mapping, drawing from observation and experimenting with different drawing implements.
- 3] Painting Unit: Illustrating a Concept
 - Students will be exposed to different styles of painting and different paint mediums/techniques.
 - Emphasis is placed on care and use of materials for painting, watercolor and acrylic paint workshop exercises, and a final painting in the medium of the student's choice.
- 4] Narrative Sculpture Unit
 - Students will recognize the challenges that face an artist when working three dimensionally.
 - Students will create a sculptural work of art that possesses a conceptual narrative.
 - Emphasis is placed on research into subject matter, discovery exercise to check for conceptual understanding, drafting a two-dimensional plan and then carrying the plan out in a three-dimensional form.
- 5] Computer Art Unit: Unity and Balance
 - Students will recognize that using computers is a valid way of creating art.
 - Students will explore the Appleworks 6 Painting Program.
 - Emphasis is placed on looking at Graphic Design as a process and career, working as a group to check for understanding of the Appleworks 6 Painting Program, and creating an image that has strong unity and visual balance.

Assessment

Each unit will utilize different forms of assessment. Emphasis will be placed on group critiques, written self-reflections and rubrics that will guide the Art 2 assessment process. Grading for Art 2 is Pass/Fail.

Materials and Resources

A variety of books, overhead transparencies, videos and actual works of art are used as resources to introduce concepts and skills.