



# VISUAL ART - 7th gr. Syllabus

Quarter Class

SY 2026-2027

| Teacher                                                                                        | Room Number |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Jennifer Russell<br><a href="mailto:jennifer.russell@dodea.edu">jennifer.russell@dodea.edu</a> | Lead 5      |

## Required Materials:

Sketchbook to keep at school (**no smaller than 9x12**) - You may want to have one at home too.

*I recommend the hard-back sketchbooks at the Action store in either Bitburg or Wittlich.*

**Optional Materials:** Drawing pencils (2H, HB, 2B)

## Course Description/Standards Covered

The VISUAL ART classes are based on four components:

**CREATING** - Students will develop basic artistic literacy skills while experimenting with new ideas and materials. New methods and approaches to creating art will be discovered. Students will recognize and use the art elements and design principles to create self-expressive, but well-organized works of art.

**RESPONDING** - Students will begin to see and feel visual relationships as they reflect on and evaluate works of art through discussion and writing.

**CONNECTING** - Students will begin to develop an understanding and appreciation of the visual arts in relation to history, culture, and community.

**PRESENTING** - Students will analyze and evaluate work for presentation.

## Expectations and Goals

Our goal is to become thoughtful, creative, and confident artists who observe carefully, experiment with new ideas and materials, persist through challenges, reflect on our work, respect ourselves and others, and share our ideas and artwork with our community.

## Behavior Expectations

In our studio, we are expected to use materials responsibly, follow directions and procedures, use our time wisely, respect people and their artwork, listen and participate, keep our workspace clean, and contribute to a positive and creative environment.

- **Be respectful to everyone:** Listen to teachers and all other adults. Respect the views and opinions of other learners. Be kind and use positive words in a respectful tone.
- **Do not damage any class materials or furniture.**
- **Respect other people's personal space.**
- **Do your Best:** Be prepared, complete all work, keep a positive attitude even when the work is hard, be organized, and work on good behavior. Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. Always give proper credit to your sources and uphold the highest standards of academic integrity.

### School Tardy Policy:

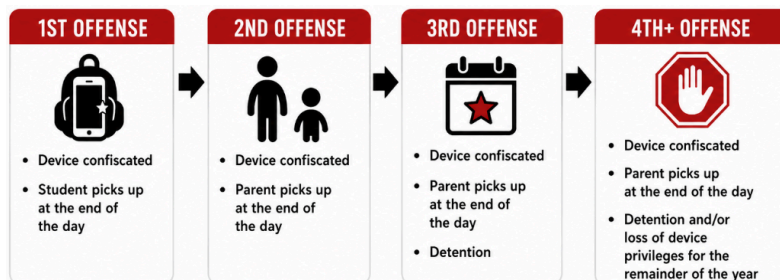
- Students must be in the learning studio when the bell rings or they will be marked tardy.
- Students 5 or more minutes late must have a pass from the front office.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused tardy of quarter = consequence (teacher communicated & assigned).

**Additional Comments:** (1) **Cell phones will not be allowed in the classroom.** It is important for students to be completely engaged & focused on the lesson. (2) For safety purposes, we need to keep the art room clutter free; therefore, backpacks & coats will not be allowed in the classroom. (3) No food, drinks, or gum will be allowed in the art room. Students may bring water in a closed container.

### DoWEA Digital Device Policy:

To maximize learning and minimize distractions, SpMS follows DoWEA's Digital Device Policy.

- Personal electronic devices (including cell phones, smart watches/glasses used for communication, earbuds/headphones, and similar devices) **must be powered off and stored away during the instructional day unless a staff member specifically authorizes their use for an instructional purpose or an approved accommodation.**
- Students are expected to follow all staff directions regarding electronic devices.
- Unauthorized use of a digital device may result in the device being secured in accordance with school procedures and may result in additional disciplinary consequences.
- Students are responsible for the care and security of their personal devices. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal electronics.



### Grading Procedures:

Grades will be posted in ASPEN and will be determined by total points earned on major projects, art history assignments, quizzes, and sketchbook/homework assignments.

Project grades are based on a five criteria rubric in the following areas:

- Creativity & Experimentation
- Use of Art Elements/Principles,
- Understanding and Completion
- Process and Persistence
- Reflection and Studio Habits



Students are expected to complete assignments and projects to the best of their abilities and submit them on time. Late work will be accepted, but points will be deducted on all late assignments with the exception of major projects. All projects not in after 2 days of being late will be considered a 0

and will affect their grade. If students do not use time wisely, they may have art work to complete at home.

**Make-up Work:** When a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the student to check with the teacher or Google Classroom for missed assignments. **It is also the student's responsibility to let me know when the missed assignments have been submitted to Google Classroom.**

**Blended Learning:** All lessons, assignments, and due dates will be posted on Google Classroom in a format familiar to students. If students have questions about assignments or need help, they may always ask during class, seminar, or via student email.

### **Late Work & Missing Assignments**

- **Assignment Due Dates:** Assignments are expected to be submitted by the teacher's established due date. If an assignment is not submitted on the due date and the student is present, it will be marked **MSG (Missing)** in ASPEN. An **MSG** temporarily counts as a **0** in the student's grade until the assignment is submitted.
- **Two-School-Day Grace Period:** Students have **two school days** after the original due date to submit the missing assignment for **full (earned) credit (due at the beginning of class on the second day)**. This grace period provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the learning standard while encouraging responsibility and timely completion of work. Assignments submitted during this window are graded using the same academic expectations and quality standards as assignments submitted on time. **NOTE: This policy does not include homework assignments, rather assignments with a pre-set due date.**
- **After the Grace Period:**
  - If the assignment is turned in, the grade will be changed from **MSG** to the earned grade.
  - If the assignment has **not** been submitted by the end of the grace period, the assignment is finalized so the gradebook accurately reflects current progress and teachers can maintain the pace of instruction.
    - **The MSG will be replaced with a permanent NTI (Not Turned In; counts as a 0) in the gradebook.**
  - At the beginning of class on the second day, the assignment is considered closed and is no longer eligible for full credit unless an approved exception applies.
- **Exceptions:** This policy does not replace accommodations or other approved supports. Exceptions may include:
  - Excused absences (students receive additional time in accordance with school expectations)
  - IEP or Section 504 accommodations
  - Teacher-approved extensions communicated in advance
  - Administrative exceptions when appropriate
  - *Teachers may accept work after the two-school-day window at their professional discretion, but are not required to do so.*

### **Why This Policy?**

Our goal is to ensure grades communicate **student learning**, not behavior alone. Research consistently shows that students benefit when they have a reasonable opportunity to complete missing work while still being held accountable for meeting deadlines. This policy provides both.



## GRADING SCALE

| GRADE       | NUMERICAL RANGE |
|-------------|-----------------|
| A           | 90 – 100        |
| B           | 80 – 89         |
| C           | 70 – 79         |
| D           | 60 – 69         |
| F (failing) | 0 – 59          |

Consistent schoolwide approaches promote:

- Clear expectations for all students
- Timely feedback for families
- Accurate communication of academic progress
- Student responsibility and organization
- Fairness and consistency across all classrooms

## ASPEN CODES YOU MIGHT SEE



**MSG**

Missing  
(counts as 0; hurts grade)



**ABS**

Absent – **Temporary Input**  
(counts as 0; hurts grade)  
*Will be changed after work is turned in.*



**NTI**

Not Turned In  
(counts as 0; hurts grade)



**EXC**

Excused (does not affect grade)



**INC**

Incomplete (no effect until fixed)



**BLANK**

No Grade yet

This year we are asking: “How do artists make creative choices to express meaning and influence others?”

My goal is to encourage students to express themselves and develop the skills to communicate their ideas in unique and creative ways through a variety of art forms and mediums. I want students to solve problems using their eyes, minds, and hearts while learning the language of visual communication. Art is an essential part of a well-rounded education because it teaches students to look closely, make connections, see things in new ways, and notice what they may have otherwise missed. It encourages curiosity, creativity, problem-solving, and innovation, skills that are increasingly important in our changing world. My desire is to help students become thoughtful, creative, and innovative thinkers who are willing to experiment, take risks, and see what is possible. And, of course, art is fun!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Sending me a message to [jennifer.russell@dodea.edu](mailto:jennifer.russell@dodea.edu) is the quickest way to reach me, or you can call me before/after school.

### Big Idea: Learning to solve artistic problems

| Week   | Units:<br>Quarter:<br>- Drawing<br>- Color Theory<br>- 3-Dimensional<br>- Mixed Media<br>ART HISTORY (incorporated)                                                                           |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Introduction to Visual Art - Creativity Warm-up (every day)<br>Variety of Art (follow steps, see what happens)<br>Art Pretest<br>Review Elements of Art & Principles of Design (tesselations) |
| Week 2 | Drawing Practice: Contour Drawing, Value Scales                                                                                                                                               |

|        |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week   | <b>Units:</b><br><b>Quarter:</b><br>- Drawing<br>- Color Theory<br>- 3-Dimensional<br>- Mixed Media<br>ART HISTORY (incorporated) |
|        | Value Study: Italy, Mona Lisa, portraits                                                                                          |
| Week 3 | Value Study: Italy, Mona Lisa, portraits, cont.<br>Color theory                                                                   |
| Week 4 | Color theory: France: Paul Cezanne (oil Pastel)                                                                                   |
| Week 5 | Henri Rousseau: pattern/texture (printmaking)                                                                                     |
| Week 6 | Henri Rousseau: pattern/texture (printmaking) cont.                                                                               |
| Week 7 | Austria: Friedensreich Hundertwasser: dreamscape (watercolor)                                                                     |
| Week 8 | Spain: Pablo Picasso-space and form (clay)                                                                                        |
| Week 9 | Pablo Picasso cont.                                                                                                               |