Curriculum Units and Learning Outcomes

Content Area: Ceramics I	**Grade Level: 9-12**
Unit Title: Pinch Pot	

Unit Summary:
Ceramics I is an introductory course designed to familiarize students with the basic fundamentals of working with clay as an artistic medium. Students will learn a variety of basic handbuilding and preliminary wheel throwing techniques throughout the term. Students will also learn about surface decorating, underglazing, glazing, working with slips, firing, proper ceramic studio etiquette and much more. Students will create both sculptural and functional works of art.

In this first unit students will learn the basic hand building technique of creating a pinch pot. Pinching ceramics is one of the first techniques beginning potters learn because it requires basic tools (one's hands) and it allows artists the opportunity to become more familiar with the properties of the clay. Students will also learn some basic joining techniques such as how to score & slip and how to blend. They will be challenged with combining two pinch pots together to create a unique sculpture. Students will learn about the stages of clay and the importance each stage plays in the creation of a piece. Students will also be introduced to underglazing and glazing. Surface decoration techniques, such as stamping will also be explored. An emphasis will be placed on experimenting with the elements of form, shape and texture. Studio etiquette will be introduced such as the proper ways to store ceramic works in progress to caring for and maintaining tools, equipment, and the studio.

National Standards:

- Anchor Standard 1: Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard 2: Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.
- Anchor Standard 3: Refine and complete artistic work.
- Anchor Standard 5: Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- Anchor Standard 8: Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.

Enduring Understandings: Students will understand that:

- Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
- Artists and designers experiment with form, composition, structure, materials, concepts, media, and art-making approaches.
- Artists and designers develop excellence through practice and constructive critique, reflecting on, revising, and refining artwork over time.

Essential Questions:

- How do artists and designers generate ideas?
- How do artists and designers learn from trial and error?
- What are the intrinsic qualities of a medium, material, or technique that make it unique?
- What role does persistence play in revising, refining, and developing work?

Students will demonstrate KNOWLEDGE of:	**Students will be SKILLED at**:
● Working in clay requires specific techniques, tools and processes. ● The pinch pot is a basic ceramic technique. ● There are 5 stages of clay that are crucial to the timing of tasks when sculpting with it. ● Like other artists, Ceramic artists consider the Elements of Art and Principles of Design when creating.	● Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors. ● Develop an understanding of and apply the Elements of Art & Principles of Design when making works of art. ● Build their “ceramics” skills by experimenting with a variety of techniques and approaches. ● Reflect on personal artwork in various forms (artist statement, critique, peer interviews, self-assessment, surveys).

Estimated Duration: