**Some FAQ's to get you started:**

**What should I be doing to prepare for AP Art this summer?** *You will make one 25 hour piece of art that directly addresses the theme (Sustained Investigation) you would like to work on in AP Art. It is due on the first day of school. You should look at many examples of what AP Art should look like (scores of 4 or 5) before you begin. If you earn a 95% or higher, you may exchange this piece for a missing assignment one time.*

**How big should my piece be?** *No smaller than 8" by 10" if working in 2D or Drawing. Otherwise it's up to you.*

**What mediums should I be using?** *The one(s )you are BEST at.*

**How do I write my theme question or Sustained Investigation question?** *Go look at the countless examples of these online. A google search will get you there. Since no two are alike, it is difficult to give you guidance. If you get truly stuck, write your idea as a statement that answers "what do you want to focus on this year?" I can help you flip that into a question (required when we submit our AP test later in the year) the first week of school. It happens all the time and you will not be alone or in trouble.*

**Should I track my 25 hours?** *Yes, absolutely you should. You will learn so much about how you work, when you do your best work, and how your time commitment relates to the size of canvas and medium type. Tracking your time is essential as you learn to work more independently and in a non-structured setting like home.*

**What happens if I run into trouble with my piece over the summer?** *I check my email occasionally, and will try to get back to you, but this is a good opportunity to research and problem solve independently as well.*

# AP Studio Arts Summer Assignment 2026

1. JUNE/JULY/AUGUST:
   Research and review as many aspects of the AP Art course as possible. You must thoroughly understand the high expectations for superior art ahead of time so that your work matches the rigor and quality needed to succeed. Look up portfolios! Your work should be college-level!
2. JUNE/JULY HOMEWORK:
   Start formulating a theme to guide your sustained investigation at the beginning of portfolio development. This theme should be based on your own talents and interests. Write your theme out and be ready to share it. Your theme, or *sustained investigation* will guide 15 out of the 20 pieces you will make this year. The possibilities are endless.
3. JULY/AUGUST HOMEWORK:
   Using your sustained investigation/theme as your prompt, **CREATE A 25-HOUR WORK OF ART**.

Like all AP pieces, you must research, sketch/plan, take photos, etc. All work must be original in all ways. **Do NOT use the intellectual property of other people.** The ACTUAL work of art should take between 25-30 hours. Yes, you read that right. NO CHEATING! You are aiming for an "A". Better yet…aim for a 100%. Come out of the gate strong! Impress me! Better yet…impress yourself! All areas of your piece are to be handled with the utmost care. Follow the Elements and Principles of Design. Employ expert craftsmanship. Tell a story (narrative).

EXAMPLE of how to get there:
I think I am interested in some supernatural stuff and even astrology. I also really find my friends fascinating and always look up their horoscopes! Hmmm. I think I know what I want to do…
***My sustained investigation will explore how the zodiac relates to people in my life.***
Now, this is how I think I am going to go about it:
***I will focus on people I know and complete informal interviews with them to get ideas. Then I will paint portraits in a realistic-meets-illustrative style that exaggerates the qualities of each person through the lens of the zodiac by using symbolic imagery.***
I now know my end goal and am excited to start. This is what my show/portfolio will look/feel like:
***My art show exhibition will look like a portrait gallery and amuse the audience with a humorous look at zodiac stereotypes. My friends will love seeing how I portrayed them!***

**Be ready to bring your THEME STATEMENT AND WORK OF ART with you on the very first day of school! *And* expect to share with your class. THIS CONCEPT PIECE WILL BE GRADED!**