

Fir Ridge Campus

General Art

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Course Description

General Art is an expressive and creative course that provides high school students with a diverse and immersive experience in visual arts. Through hands-on exploration of various art forms such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital media, students develop their artistic skills and unleash their creativity. They learn about art history, different artistic styles, and famous artists to better appreciate the art world's rich heritage. General Art encourages self-expression, critical thinking, and problem-solving through creative projects and critiques. This course fosters artistic literacy and a lifelong appreciation for the arts, whether students pursue a career or simply wish to enjoy and create art as a personal expression.

Coursework

In the General Art course, students will engage in various creative projects exploring different aspects of visual arts. The coursework is designed to be hands-on and immersive, allowing students to experiment with various mediums and techniques while developing their artistic abilities.

General Art is structured to encourage exploration, creativity, and critical thinking, providing students with a comprehensive and enriching experience in the visual arts through:

1. Drawing and Sketching:

- Students will begin with foundational drawing skills, focusing on line, shape, form, and perspective. Exercises will include mark making, entangles, composition, design, and landscape studies, using markers, pens, pencils, charcoal, and pastels.

2. Printmaking:

- Students will be introduced to the art of printmaking, learning techniques such as linocut, etching, and mono-printing. They will create original prints by carving or etching designs into linoleum blocks, CDs, or plexi and then inking them and transferring the images onto paper. This process will allow students to explore the concept of multiples and the unique qualities of print as an art form.

3. Painting:

- Through painting projects, students will explore color theory, composition, and brush techniques. They will work with watercolors, acrylics, and oils, creating pieces that reflect different artistic styles, such as POP art, realism, surrealism, and abstract art.

4. Sculpture:

- This segment introduces three-dimensional art forms. Students will experiment with materials like clay and wire and find objects to create sculptures. Projects may include creating relief sculptures, abstract forms, and functional art pieces.

5. Digital Media:

- Students will learn to create digital art using software tools like Adobe Photoshop or Illustrator, PicsArt, and Canva. They will explore techniques in digital painting, photo manipulation, animation, and graphic design, producing digital artworks that reflect contemporary artistic trends.

6. Art History

- Lessons on art history are integrated into the practical work. Students study various art movements, styles, and influential artists. They also participate in group discussions, developing the ability to analyze and discuss art constructively.

7. Creative Projects:

- Throughout the course, students will complete creative projects that encourage personal expression and innovation. These projects allow students to explore their unique artistic voice and experiment with combining different mediums and styles.

8. Art Showcase:

- During our Spring Conferences, students can participate in the Fir Ridge Art Show, where they can showcase their best works. This showcase will reflect the diversely talented students at Fir Ridge and celebrate their hard work and artistic growth.

Grading

The grading policy for the General Art course is designed to evaluate students based on their creative projects and active class participation. At the beginning of each project, students will be given project criteria, expectations, and product timelines and asked to grade themselves first based on each project's criteria.

The grade distribution is as follows:

1. Projects – 70% of the Grade:

- Content: Evaluation will focus on understanding the specific vocabulary taught and the ability to apply learned techniques on assignments
- Composition: Students will be assessed on their creativity, understanding, and application of project goals.
- Craftsmanship: Grading will consider the students' craftsmanship, neatness, and effort in experimenting with different materials.

2. Participation – 30% of the Grade:

- Class Engagement/Production: Students are expected to actively participate, listen during instruction, and work productively during independent time. Consistent attendance, effective time management, and effort in completing assignments are essential. Positive behavior, respect for classmates' work, and a proactive approach to challenges are key.

Late Work Policy:

- Students are encouraged to communicate with the instructor if they encounter any issues that might delay their submissions. All work is due the Monday before the grading period ends.

Makeup Work:

- Students who miss classes or deadlines due to absences will be allowed to complete makeup work without penalty, but will need to arrange time after school or during enrichment to complete projects. If the materials are not classroom-specific, work can be made up at home.

Materials

All project-specific materials will be provided or made available by the teacher. While students are welcome to bring their own supplies, they are not required to do so. Students will be notified in advance for activities involving painting or other messy materials, and aprons will be available to protect clothing. Students may also work with sharp or hot tools during certain projects and are expected to use these materials responsibly. Safety instructions and, when appropriate, personal safety equipment will be provided. If there are any safety concerns, alternative options will be provided.

Classroom Expectations

- **Studio Environment:** A successful studio environment is built on teamwork, support for one another, and full participation. Arrive on time, ready to work, and take care of materials and the workspace respectfully and safely.
- **Absences/Tardies:** It is the students responsibility to check with the teacher about missed assignments due to absences. Excess absences may result in falling behind on projects. This time must be made up after school or at home when possible. Excessive tardies will result in a discussion with the teacher about creating a plan. If it continues, the student will receive a response form and a call home.
- **Safety:** Safety is a top priority. Unsafe behavior or actions that create hazards are not permitted. Students who disregard this policy must review safety norms with the teacher and receive a response form to document the incident. This will also result in a call home to discuss the matter further.
- **Responsibility:** Fulfill your assigned roles and responsibilities in projects and act positively and supportively towards your peers.
- **Preparedness:** Be on time daily, ready to work with the necessary materials, and use studio time effectively, including cleaning up.
- **Technology Use:** During the day, cell phones and other devices should be off and away to maintain focus and engagement.

About Me

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy stand-up paddleboarding, especially when I can soak up nature's beauty and the warm summer sun. I'm also a dog lover and proud dog mom to two affectionate pit bull rescues named Stitch and Roscoe. Family is important to me, and I cherish my trips home to Hawaii and Kentucky , where I get to spend quality time with my loved ones. As an art teacher, I am dedicated to meeting students where they are and fostering an environment where creativity and growth thrive. My goal is to guide students in exploring their creativity, embracing challenges, and discovering and elevating their unique artistic voice.