

Beginning Visual Arts: Art & Photography

Lexington Junior High School

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Beginning Visual Arts is a year-long exploratory elective for students who have little or no previous art experience. The course introduces students to a wide range of visual art forms and is broken into two semester-long segments: Art 1 and Exploring Digital Photography.

Art 1 introduces students to elements of art and principles of design through the manipulation of basic art media such as pencil, crayon, ink, paint, paper, wood, wire, and clay. Students will become aware of art influences in history, culture, and its place in our society, as well as career opportunities in the visual arts.

Exploring Digital Photography is designed to develop students' working knowledge of camera controls, principles of photograph composition, and basic lighting techniques. Students will become aware of important figures in the photography world, photographers' connections and contribution to historic events, and photography career opportunities.

Learning Focus

Our learning focuses on the following four artistic processes and related anchor standards set by the State of California:

Create

- Generate and Conceptualize Artistic Ideas and Work
- Organize and Develop Artistic Ideas and Work
- Refine and Complete Artistic Work

Respond

- Perceive and Analyze Artistic Work
- Interpret Intent and Meaning in Artistic Work
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work

Present

- Select, Analyze, and Interpret Artistic Work for Presentation
- Develop and Refine Artistic Techniques and Work for Presentation
- Convey Meaning Through the Presentation of Artistic Work

Connect

- Synthesize and Relate Knowledge and Personal Experiences to Make Art
- Relate Artistic Ideas and Works with Societal, Cultural, and Historical Context to Deepen Understanding

We also focus on these seven artist capacities:

Artists are expected to:

- Come up with an idea
- Select media and tools
- Create
- Engage and persist
- Revise, edit, and reflect
- Meet a deadline and share work
- Learn new things

General Class Expectations

We are artists working together in a creative community. We are expected to **be professional** in working with each other. Professional artists do these things:

- Be respectful
- Be present
- Be productive
- Be thoughtful
- Be a good listener
- Be proactive
- Be dependable
- Meet deadlines
- Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Important Legal Stuff

Masks are required in the art/photo classroom in keeping with state and district COVID-19 mandates. We appreciate everyone doing their part to keep our artist community safe and healthy!

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices should be off and out of sight in your backpack or book bag. This is a school policy. In very specific circumstances, you may be permitted to use your phone for specific class assignments, but, again, this is only under very specific circumstances and with Dr. Hind's permission. Ask first, don't assume.

California Education Code, Article 51512

It is **ILLEGAL** to use **ANY** electronic recording or listening device inside a classroom without a teacher's permission. People who film, video, or record during a class without a teacher's permission are **GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**. The code says, "Any pupil violating this section shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action."

Bottom Line: ***Do not film, photograph, screenshot, or record our class.*** It's against the law.

Learning Evaluation & Grading

In Lexington's visual arts classes, student progress is evaluated using a standards-based rating system. Students learn creative disciplines and show their development through their creative products. Students are not working to earn points; rather, they are working to improve their creative skill sets and to develop their artists' brains and thought processes. Because this is a creative class, ratings using the standards-based system give students a more accurate idea of how they are doing in class than do points on a given assignment, and this type of evaluation helps each student set, work toward, and reach their own artistic and creative goals.

Submitted art projects are rated as Master, Artisan, Developing Artisan, Apprentice, and Novice. Rubrics explaining the characteristics of each level of mastery for the assignment will be provided for each project. Other class work will be given marks based on the student's engagement and effort in the artistic process: √+, √, and √-.

The district's report card requires use of letter grades, so ratings are correlated to letter grade percentages using the following equivalency:

| Rating | Rationale | Correlated Percentage |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Master | Exemplary work demonstrates a distinguished level of thought, meets highest standards of effort and artistry | 100% |
| Artisan | High quality work demonstrates considerable thought and meets high standards of effort and artistry | 90-99.9% |
| Developing Artisan | Good quality work demonstrates evident thought and attention to effort and artistry | 80-89.9% |
| Apprentice | Work shows basic evidence of developing process, skill, thought, and attention to effort and artistry | 75-79.9% |
| Novice | Work shows limited evidence of process and skill, demonstrates minimal thought and attention to effort and artistry | 70-74.9% |
| D or F grades represent an incomplete evaluation of student growth due to missing assignments or lack of participation in the course. | | |

Tardies, Absences, and Make-up Work

You are expected to arrive to class on time unless you have a signed pass from a Lexington faculty member or the main office. If you come to class late without a pass, you will receive a detention, and your participation grade will go down. *This is your warning!*

Because Beginning Visual Arts is an intensive course with a considerable amount of work completed in class, regular attendance is critical to your artistic and academic success. If you are absent, you are expected to turn in any missed work to receive credit. Talk to Dr. Hind to find out what you missed.

Late Work

Late work is accepted, but late submissions will affect a student's rating on a given project.

Late work may not be submitted after the end of the quarter in which it was assigned. Any assignments that are missing at the end of the quarter will freeze as "missing" and negatively affect a student's final grade.

Extra Help

Dr. Hind is available to help students outside of class by appointment. Please email or talk to her if you need help or would like to meet.

You may also email Dr. Hind if you have questions, but please keep in mind that if you email her after 3:00 p.m. or on weekends, she may not email you back until the next school day.

Other Good Things to Know

Support Your Local Artists!

So we can do AMAZING things in Visual Arts this year, we respectfully request a \$30 donation per student (\$15 per semester) to supplement our very limited budget. This suggested donation will help purchase art and photography supplies, as well as pay for various printing, mounting, and processing fees. Your generosity and support are very much appreciated!

Sharing Your Art

As artists, we are expected to share our work with the world, and we *want* to! There are many opportunities at school, in the community, and online for getting our work out there and seen.

Instagram

Lexington's visual arts classes have their very own Instagram account: **@lexingtonvisualarts**. We use this to share our art with the world.

As a visual arts student, you are also part of a larger Lexington arts community that includes drama, choir, guitar, dance crew, percussion, and band. This community has an Instagram as well, **@lexingtonvapa**, and our art work and class activities are featured there sometimes.

Art Shows and Competitions

Art shows and competitions are great for sharing your art work with others, and you are strongly encouraged to submit your art to shows for consideration. Lexington artists have been in many art shows, and they have won awards in juried art competitions like PTSA Reflections and the Orange County Fair. Most recently, seven Lexington artists had work featured in the Orange County art show at South Coast Plaza Crystal Court, and five Lexington artists were on exhibition at the prestigious Laguna Festival of Arts.

Dr. Hind will let you know about art show and competition opportunities throughout the year. You are strongly encouraged to enter!

Stay in Touch

How to Contact Dr. Hind

Email is the very best way to reach Dr. Hind. Her address is **hind_e@auhsd.us**.

Please note that emails sent after 3:00 p.m. may not be answered until the next school day. Your patience is appreciated.