

Welcome to Middle School Art Class at High Plains



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B old - take risks and try hard
I nquisitive - ask questions and be curious
S upportive - be helpful and responsible
O riginal - be creative and unique
N eat - clean up after yourself

This year at High Plains we will be doing a variety of fun, dynamic art projects that promote great problem solving skills, creative thinking, and collaborative work. We will practice our visual communication and self expression, as well as be introduced to a common art language and an artistic skill set. All units and lessons are based on the Colorado State Art Standards, which will be accessible in their entirety on my website. In a nutshell, however...

artathighplains.weebly.com

Visual Arts Grade Level Expectations at a Glance

Standard Grade Level Expectation Sixth-Eighth Grades

- 1. Observe and Learn to Comprehend**
 1. Conceptual art theories explain how works of art are created
 2. The history of art, world cultures, and artistic styles influence contemporary art concerns
 3. Art criticism strategies are used to analyze, interpret, and make informed judgments about works of art
- 2. Envision and Critique to Reflect**
 1. Visual literacy skills help to establish personal meaning and artistic intent in works of art
 2. Key concepts, issues, and themes in the visual arts can solve problems using real-world applications
- 3. Invent and Discover to Create**
 1. Achieve artistic purpose to communicate intent
 2. Demonstrate technical proficiency and craftsmanship when planning
 3. Utilize current and available technology to refine an idea, and create original and imaginative works of art
- 4. Relate and Connect to Transfer**
 1. Visual arts are valuable for a variety of art and non-art related lifelong endeavors
 2. Cultural traditions and events impact visual arts within a community
 3. Visual arts provide an opportunity to explore sustainable environments, design and architecture

Thompson School District Grading Scale

- 4 **Exemplary** – Above expectations. Consistently produces a masterly body of evidence.
- 3 **Meets** - At expectation level. Consistently meets standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence.
- 2 **Progressing** - Working towards expectation level. Demonstrates progress toward standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence.
- 1 **Emerging** - Below expectation level. Has limited understanding of standards as demonstrated by a body of evidence.

Grades

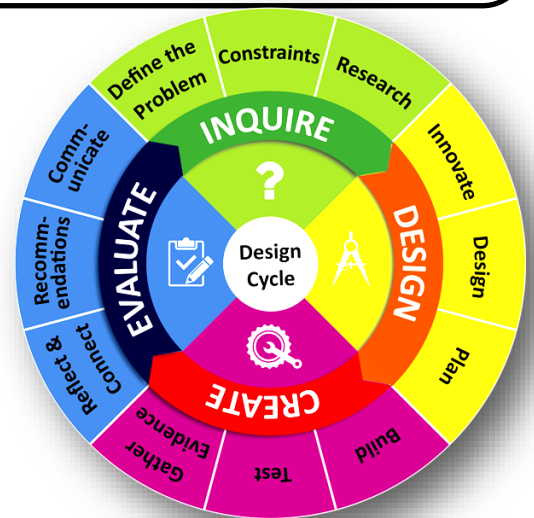
“How do you grade art?”

That is a very common question, and I’m glad you asked!

For every project or assignment I post a learning target that describes the specific goals we are working towards, as well as the state standards that we are addressing. I use the Design Cycle when planning, so there is usually an Investigate portion, a Design or Plan stage, always a Create part of the project, and lastly there is usually an Evaluate portion as well. For each stage of the design cycle, I give a separate grade. For the Create part of the cycle I give two grades, one for craftsmanship, and one for creativity. There is also a work habits grade that is based on effort level and self management. I hope this helps explaining grading in art, however, if you ever have any questions about a grade, please speak up! I would be happy to discuss it with you.

A little advice about grades: The easiest way to earn at minimum a 3 in art is to generate many ideas, work dur-

Code of Conduct: In Art class we follow the code of conduct outlined in the Student/Parent handbook regarding behavior expectations, dress code, food and beverage in the classroom, and personal technology devices.



The High Plains Art Room is an exciting place to be! We have such amazing opportunities here, and I hope you are as excited as I am to fully engage in them!

The study of the Arts have always valued the importance of the creative process as a necessary part of one’s education. Art lets us say what cannot be said, and lets us have an experience that we cannot have anywhere else.

Even if you feel that “art’s not my thing”, in this class, your opinion and feelings truly matter. As long as you are respectful, I want to know what you’re thinking. And if you have an “ah ha” moment, please share!