

Hello ladies-

I'm delighted to know that you all will once again be in 04 and keeping me company for a full year. I'm a lucky teacher.

There are some important things we need to go over to prepare you for AP Studio Art. First and foremost, you all need to be aware that you have summer work to do. In fact, if it is at all possible, I highly recommend that you take an art class or two where you can draw from observation. Of all the skills that AP Art judges want to see, that is most important.

Of course, creativity is also important, and you need to understand the lightbulb above your head doesn't come on magically. You must bring some inspiration to your mind to light it up. That means: reading from various sources, visiting museums and galleries in person or virtually, getting out in nature, and paying attention to what catches your eye. What intrigues you? What moves you? TAKE LOTS OF PHOTOS!

You are all responsible for taking constant notes. You will be asked to show your journal at the beginning of the school year and at the time your portfolio is due. I will be giving you a grade for your journals. In them you will do the thumbnail sketches that take you from your initial concept to the best possible (sophisticated), thoughtful, presentation of your art pieces. Judges want to know how your thought process progresses throughout the course of making your art. They want to see/read why you chose that composition, color scheme, and medium. They want to hear how feedback, from anyone, effected your plan.

I cannot stress enough how important is it to **decide immediately, what you want your theme to be.** The College Board has, for the past two COVID school years, reduced the number of theme pieces required for the portfolio. I will be looking at that web site eventually to see if they have the portfolio requirement for next year posted yet. **FYI you can do this too. On their website, you can read what are the requirements, expectations, and deadlines. You can see examples of past AP Art portfolios. Everyone is expected to be self-motivated. Do not wait on me to feed you every detail of what you need to do. That is what the College Board website is for.**

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I am very interested in helping you through this process. I've given a lot of helpful advice to students, as to the mediums that might work best for a particular art concept, where to look for inspiration, what to read that speaks to their theme subject.

What will make your portfolios strong -

The strength of your work will largely be based on how deeply you researched your subject. Trust me, you do not want to rely on the first ideas that come into your heads. That is skimming the surface, and not likely to be as sophisticated as when you **do your research**. Go deep into your subject. Think beyond the obvious connections that come up. Look at other subjects that touch on the concept of your theme: history, culture, science, math, economics, politics, nature, religion, etc.

Summer work -

You will be responsible for creating three strong (they all have to be strong), works of art this summer. Ideally, these pieces would work toward your theme. Along with the three finished art works, you will bring in your journal. These will be brought to school on the very first day we meet as a class, and we will look at them together. Plan on taking feedback notes. These will count as your first four grades.

I'm sure you will have questions, so feel free to contact me at any time. Always use my **.org** email address. That is where this email is coming from.

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FLHS ART DEPARTMENT