



# Lower School Visual Art - Curriculum Overview

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## **Pre-K** students will:

- Build creative muscles and imagination through PLAY
- Develop and strengthen their fine motor skills through the use of art tools and processes
- Learn to manage the art workspace, follow directions, and clean up
- Begin to understand the connection between art and storytelling
- Explore and experiment with art processes and art-making, both 2- and 3D
- Begin to learn and understand about art elements: color, line, shape, texture
- Engage in multi-step art-making

## **Kindergarten** students will build on and develop skills learned in Pre-K, and will:

- Make connections between themselves and other artists
- Look at illustrations in familiar books; talk about the images as the work of an artist
- Recognize and name shapes, simple AB patterns, relative sizes, textures
- Experiment with color mixing through paint
- Recognize and name primary and secondary colors
- Begin to draw the world from observation
- Strengthen hands through work with clay

## **First Grade** students will build on previous knowledge and skills, and will:

- Explore a range of world cultures through stories and artwork
- Make connections between art and folklore; recognize the interconnectedness between different cultures and areas of study in school
- Elaborate on color theory: warm and cool colors, tints and shades
- Practice increasingly complex drawing techniques
- Learn 'resist' technique using oil pastels and watercolor paints
- Practice painting on an easel
- Practice creating mixed media artworks with collage

- Learn to weave with paper and/or fiber
- Learn to recognize and create increasingly complex patterns (AAB, ABBC, and more)

**Second Grade** *students will build on previous knowledge and skills, and will:*

- Explore conceptual and abstract/non-representational art
- Choose an abstract/non-representational artist to study
- Learn the concept of “relief” through work with clay
- Create fully three-dimensional sculpture in a variety of media

**Third Grade** *students will build on previous knowledge and skills, and will:*

- Make connections between art and the natural world
- Learn the power of art to express emotions, thoughts, and ideas, and to effect change
- Create art that “says something” about a chosen topic
- Look at the art of John James Audubon; explore environmental challenges, specifically to animals, and create art around an area of passion
- Continue to deepen drawing skills
- Create sculpture with papier maché

**Fourth Grade** *students will build on previous knowledge and skills, and will:*

- Look at the human face and its ability to express emotion and mood
- Look at the human figure and what is expressed through body language and gesture
- Explore the figure in motion; action poses and more
- Study artists who work with the human figure; look at gesture and movement in 2- and 3D art
- Create portraits and cartoons showing facial expression
- Build a wire armature for a plaster sculpture of a human figure in motion