

# Visual Arts

## Student Handbook:

### A Guide to Focus-Area Success

Appomattox Regional Governor's School  
2013-2014

v.04

# Contents:

- Mission Goals
- Curriculum
- Classroom Activities
- Student Expectations
- Teacher Expectations
- Grades/ Assessments
- Secrets to Focus-Area Success
- Fees & Supply Costs

# Mission Goals-

We strive to instill our students with:

- Critical thinking skills.
- Strong technical abilities.
- Innovation and creativity.
- Craftsmanship and presentation skills.
- Visual literacy.
- Knowledge of contemporary issues in art and its relation to society.
- Entry into advanced college or professional study.

# Curriculum Courses:

- 2-D/ 3-D Design Concepts
- Art History I
- Digital Photography
- Drawing I/ II/ III
- Graphic Design I/ II/ III
- Painting I/ II/ III
- Photography I/ II/ III/ IV
- Sculpting II/ III/ IV
- Senior Project

# Classroom/ Studio Activities:

- Learn art making procedures and techniques.
- Watch demonstrations, videos and slide lectures.
- Look and think about contemporary and historical works, issues, and trends.
- Look at art books, magazines, websites, and each other's work.
- Read, write, and talk about art.
- Attend visiting lectures.
- Go on art museum and art gallery field trips.
- Collaborate with others on project assignments.
- Take quizzes and tests.

# What Students Can Expect:

- Respect, belief in capabilities.
- Expert, quality instruction.
- Answered questions.
- Demonstrated procedures.
- Allotted timeframe for project completion.
- Encouragement for performance/ obstacles.
- Prompted questions/ challenged assumptions.
- Fair assessments and helpful feedback.
- Home contact after 2nd conduct reminder.
- ARGS disciplinary policy ensued after 3rd reminder.

# What Your Teacher Expects:

- Be courteous, respectful, and supportive to others.
- Come to class with your own supplies and materials.
- Be prompt to class, prepared, and be ready to work.
- Listen and follow directions.
- Respect teacher, instructional time, and facilities.
- Ask questions, discuss class topics.
- Complete work by due dates.
- Be responsible for your classroom and foyer use.
- Be motivated to work hard.
- Be committed to excelling in your focus-area.

# Grades and Assessments:

- Technical mastery of equipment/ processes.
- Original approach to assignments.
- Creativity in problem solving.
- Participation in activities, group discussions.
- Articulation of analytical response.
- Conduct in classroom and lab.
  
- NEXT SECTION: Secrets to Focus-Area Success!



# Achieving Technical Mastery- Secrets to Polishing Talent:

- Relax, trust teacher, be open to instruction and the time it takes to learn.
- Understanding and mastering art techniques requires study, practice, and doing work. Improvement requires all three.
- Know that becoming an artist is ultimately a “process” - requiring lots of trial and error, without becoming discouraged.

# Maximizing the Assignment- Secrets to Original Approaches:

- Practice active observation- noting patterns, textures, shapes and spaces.
- Be voraciously curious about your subject matter.
- Question your own assumptions about what you are looking at.
- Draw connections between what you already know.
- Allow for mistakes, chance, and intelligent experiments.

# Resourceful Problem Solving- Secrets to True Creativity:

- Have a back up plan, rather than excuses.
- Use all resources and materials available to you.
- Research how others approached topic/ problem.
- Do your best with your own effort.
- Optimize the allotted timeframe- don't wait until the last minute to do work.

# Attendance, Tardy, Work Policy- Secrets to Great Participation:

- Minimize absences- missed classes compromise technical mastery.
- Tardy arrival to class communicates that you do not care, and is a lack of courtesy.
- Respect instructional time- repeated circumstantial requests to leave class will not be honored.
- Respect due dates- not completing projects on time diminishes classroom experience.
- Presenting work that is not yours is *plagiarism*, and will result in disciplinary action.

# The Art of Confident Articulation- Secrets to Savvy Analysis:

- Learn the vocabulary of art and design.
- Identify the elements and principles of design.
- Thorough description of details can reveal the artist's intention.
- Leave opinions, stereotypes, and generalizations at the door.
- Be sensitive and respectful.

# Classroom Conduct Policy- Secrets to Professionalism:

- Total attention is required when teacher is speaking.
- Keep book bags, purses off work tables.
- Food, soft drink bottles are not allowed (water ok).
- Shoes and appropriate clothing are required.
- No ipod, iphone, cell, blackberry use without express permission by teacher.
- Students must sign out for restroom breaks.
- Class time, computer use, peer discussions are to be centered on art assignments- not social hall or study hall for other course work.
- Clean-up is good studio practice and is mandatory.

# Fees & Supplies:

- Studio course fees cover essential studio materials supplied to students.
- Fees need to be paid at the beginning of the year.
- Additional supplies may needed to be purchased by student as required by teacher throughout year.