

Philosophy of Art Education Victor Central School District

Art is a language that allows the student to express individuality and communicate ideas about self and the world through the use of visual symbols and images. The need to create has been an essential part of human nature since the beginning of time. It enriches the human experience on many levels (functional, decorative and spiritual), and can serve as a format for historical documentation and social commentary.

Art is a natural vehicle for nurturing problem solving, decision-making and self-evaluation opportunities along with other higher order thinking skills. Art education seeks to develop creative, sensitive and artistically literate individuals who may grow emotionally, aesthetically and intellectually through active expression or reflective appreciation of the arts.

The study of art from other cultures heightens the student's aesthetic awareness, sensitivity and respect for other views, values, and traditions as well as their own. Study of the visual arts provides students with the opportunity to develop a critical and intensely personal view of them in relation to the world. As an integral part of the life-long learning process that extends beyond the classroom, art connects with the other disciplines to create a collective experience.

Experiences in art help to educate the whole child while nurturing the individual strengths of each student. Learning cooperatively in a common environment encourages growth of self-esteem and self-confidence. Development of sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others balances with responsibility for one's own personal well being in the art room. Students learn tolerance for one another and an ability to consider taking new points of view. New challenges in the art room support the skill of risk-taking, which leads to a lifetime of successful personal and professional growth.