

# Digital Art 1 Syllabus Outline

**Mrs. Murray – Lake Dallas High School**

**Fall 2025**

## Contact Information

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- **Best Way to Reach Me:** Email or call the school office. I'll respond within 24 hours on school days.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Digital Art and Media 1 at Lake Dallas High School! This syllabus outlines the course plan for your child's class this semester, including key topics, expectations, and how you can support their success. As required by Texas law (Senate Bill 12), this document serves as the instructional plan and is available for your review. I look forward to working with you and your child!

Emphasis will be placed on the development of compositional skills and imaginative use of the elements and principles of design and digital illustration. Students will be creating electronic works of art such as paintings, drawings, photography, and mixed media, utilizing the scanner, digital camera, and selected software packages (i.e. a student scans a painting, collage or other form of art in order to electronically create a multimedia graphic artwork). Students will develop the basic knowledge, concepts, technical skills, and vocabulary necessary for computer digital illustration. In addition, students will prepare a portfolio of their work.

## Supplies:

-sketchbook

## Behavior Expectations:

Students in this course have elected to pursue knowledge in visual art. This signifies motivation to spend time developing art skills and solving creative problems, therefore behaviors which do not foster a safe and innovative environment will not be tolerated. It will be expected that students spend time working outside of class on planning, brainstorming, researching, and sketching for their work. Students with tardies and absences should consider attending tutorials as needed.

**Assignments:**

Regular sketchbook assignments and notes targeted at reinforcing skills will be given before studio projects. Sketches will be required for all Studio Projects - you are expected to do independent research for these pieces! Progress check grades will be given to help pace studio projects and to provide formative assessment opportunities. Projects must be submitted on the due date, and presented for class critique.

**Grading Policy:**

- 60% Minor Grades - Thumbnails, Sketchbook Assignments, Progress Checks, Daily Assignments
- 40% Major Grades - Quizzes/Tests, Studio Projects, Critiques

**Late/Incomplete Policy:**

Projects are due on the due date or Critique day, complete or not. Students should always turn in work when it is due EVEN if they think it is incomplete. A partial grade will always be better than a zero. Students who miss Critique for school functions or planned appointments are expected to turn in their work BEFORE class is missed. Students should attend morning tutorials the day they return to school to turn in work for unexpected absences on Critique days. Once the project has been graded, a student may continue to work, and resubmit it by the end of the 9 weeks to earn a higher grade.

**Opportunities:**

Students will have opportunities to enter their work into local and state-wide art competitions (VASE, TVAA, UNT Health and Science Center, and the Congressional Art Competition) in the Spring Semester. Other opportunities will be announced as we are informed of them. We are a competitive department, and encourage student participation in art competitions. Work may be held for inclusion in competitions and exhibitions until the end of the school year. All work will be sent home before the end of the Spring Semester.

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**Course Overview (Instructional Plan)**

This semester, your child will study the following topics in Digital Art and media 1, based on Texas state standards (TEKS):

Review of Elements of Art and Principles of Design

Digital Art and Media Vocabulary

Unit 1: Design Problems -Black Squares

- Student will use a simple black squares to creatively and visually define simple design concepts
- Sketches
- PhotoShop renderings
- Class Critique

Unit 2: PhotoShop Tutorials

Students will learn PhotoShop tools and techniques through a series of step by step tutorials.

Unit 3: Selection Tools

- Students will explore selection tools more thoroughly while creating an original artwork
- Sketches
- Project: Creative Creatures

-Class Critique

#### Unit 4: Pen Tool

Students will explore the pen tool as a selection and a drawing tool.

- logo tracing exercises

- Drawing shapes

Project: Pop Art Self Portrait

-Class Critique

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Thank you for supporting your child's education! Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,  
Jeanette Murray