

8th Grade Art 3 Syllabus Outline

Jessica Risenhoover – Lake Dallas Middle School

Semester 1, Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to 8th Grade Art 3 at Lake Dallas Middle 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.

Contact Information

- **Teacher:** Jessica Risenhoover
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 - **Conference Time:** 9:24 am - 10:09 am, Monday - Friday
 - **Best Way to Reach Me:** Email or call the school office. I will respond to your message within 24 hours on school days.
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Course Overview (Instructional Plan)

This semester, your child will study the following topics in Art 3, based on Texas state standards, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

1. Unit 8: Shape & Pattern

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Use shape and pattern symbolically or conceptually in 2D and 3D work.
 - ii. Analyze how artists across cultures use pattern for storytelling or abstraction.
 - iii. Create personal or cultural pattern-based designs that challenge visual expectations.
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(A), b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(A)

2. Unit 9: Balance

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Intentionally use balance (or imbalance) to support theme or concept.
 - ii. Explore balance in multi-layered, mixed media compositions.
 - iii. Critique peer work and professional art for balance and compositional strength.
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(A), b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(C), b(3)(C)

3. Unit 10: Ceramics (Slab + Additive)

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Design and construct ceramic forms with symbolic or functional intent.
 - ii. Use slab construction and additive methods to create texture and form.
 - iii. Explore surface design techniques (e.g., carving, stamping, underglaze).
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(A), b(2)(B), b(2)(C)

4. Unit 11: Contrast & Digital Art

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Create digital artwork using high-level compositional contrast.
 - ii. Use digital media to experiment with abstraction or conceptual themes.

- iii. Compare digital aesthetics and symbolism to traditional media approaches.
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(A), b(2)(C), b(2)(D), b(3)(A), b(3)(D)

5. Unit 12: Portraits & Proportions

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Explore conceptual portraiture that reflects identity, community, or commentary.
 - ii. Experiment with stylization and exaggeration for expressive effect.
 - iii. Create a portrait series or mixed media work with personal significance.
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(B), b(2)(C), b(3)(C)

6. Unit 13: Photography

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Use photography as a medium to explore artistic voice or message.
 - ii. Plan and shoot a cohesive photo series with emphasis on composition, light, and mood.
 - iii. Analyze how contemporary photographers address social or personal themes.
- TEKS: §117.204 b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(1)(D), b(2)(B), b(2)(C), b(3)(A)

7. Unit 14: Fiber Arts

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Experiment with mixed media and fiber arts (e.g., soft sculpture, conceptual textile work).
 - ii. Create expressive fiber-based work integrating pattern, texture, and metaphor.
 - iii. Study contemporary fiber artists who explore themes like memory, identity, or activism.

- TEKS: §117.203 b(1)(B), b(1)(C), b(2)(A), b(2)(B), b(3)(B)

8. **Project 15: Summative Project & Portfolios**

- Learning Objectives:
 - i. Develop and complete a final project that reflects artistic voice, media mastery, and thematic depth.
 - ii. Curate a portfolio that showcases exploration, risk-taking, and growth.
 - iii. Write an artist statement reflecting on personal evolution as a maker and thinker.
- TEKS: §117.202 b(4)(A), b(4)(B), b(4)(C)

9. **Additional Skills/Activities**

- Develop creative thinking, problem-solving, and time management skills. TEKS: §117.202 b(1)(D), b(2)(B)
- Develop organizational skills and material craftsmanship. TEKS: §117.202 b(2)(B), b(2)(C)
- Participate in class-wide artwork critique discussions as well as independent self-critiques, learning to evaluate professional, personal, and peer artworks. TEKS: §117.202 b(1)(A), b(1)(D), b(4)(A), b(4)(B)
- Activities: Sketchbook assignments, art history and career discussions, and technical skill builders. TEKS: §117.202 b(2)(B), b(2)(C), b(3)(A), b(3)(D)

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Risenhoover