

Course Title:	7th Grade Exploratory Art
Grade(s):	7th Grade

Course Description
Students build on foundational skills and knowledge learned in 6th grade, in addition to expanding their experience with various materials. With a large focus on illustration, students explore the use of design and composition to communicate ideas. Classes meet every day for a quarter.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Design	Intentional application of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design are at the forefront of students' first projects. Thoughtful planning and execution are crucial skills in this unit. Main objectives: - Students will be introduced to typography and develop thumbnail sketches experimenting with different uses of color and line to create a monogram with their initials. They will self-assess by reflecting on their artistic choices. - Students will begin to consider the use of visual elements to convey ideas by developing an illustrated word drawing. While still drawing upon typography and graphic design, students must combine legible text with visual storytelling.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 2: Illustration	Students hone their drawing skills more fully in this unit and expand their skills in different mediums. Learning activities include portraiture, positive and negative space drawings, and practice with watercolor techniques. Main objectives: Before beginning the self portrait project, students will learn about positive	Approx. 3 weeks

	and negative space. In addition to practice drawing the human head, they will brainstorm words that describe themselves, as well as designs and patterns that will make up the background of their portrait. Students will critique their work and discuss how they represented themselves in their project. Students will view and analyze examples of illustration in the context of storytelling and narrative elements through works such as Maurice Sendak's <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>. They will identify and draft specific concepts to convey in their work before beginning their final illustration. Students will reflect on their work and the success of their communication of narrative and illustrative techniques.	
Unit 3: Sculpture	In addition to the creation of a sculpture, students explore the process of translating an idea from two to three dimensions in this unit. Main objectives: Students will sketch ideas and juxtapose parts to develop their final design. After building their sculpture, students reflect on the process and execution of their artwork.	Approx. 3 weeks