



Mount Pleasant Central School District

8th Grade, Visual & Media Arts

We believe that all students should experience visual and media arts as an essential component of their total development, through which each child can refine their critical thinking skills by creating, presenting, responding, producing, and connecting with art and culture.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Portfolio Design and Artist Trading Cards	September/ January	Personal portfolios, artist trading cards, and foundational art and design skills.	Portfolio, Design, Symbol, Identity, Composition.	Document and reflect on early stages of the creative process visually and or verbally. (VA:Cr1.1.8)	Reflecting on and evaluating personal artwork. Organizing and curating a cohesive collection of work.	A portfolio is a way to organize and present your best work to communicate meaning and personal voice.	Completed digital portfolio
2D Design Foundations	September/ January	Basics of 2D design, line, shape, repetition, and contrast. How artists use simple visual elements to create balanced, expressive compositions.	Line, Shape, Pattern, Repetition, Contrast, Balance, Composition.	Experiment, innovate, and take risks to pursue ideas, forms, and meanings that emerge in the process of art making. (VA:Cr2.1.8)	Drawing with control and intentionality. Creating repeating patterns and motifs. Using contrast to enhance visual interest. Planning and refining a composition	Artists use simple visual elements to communicate big ideas. Patterns and designs appear in nature, culture, and everyday life. Careful planning leads to strong visual impact.	Completed 2D design artwork Sketches/planning pages Short written reflection on design choices in portfolio

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Printmaking Processes	October/ February	Fundamentals of printmaking, relief techniques, and how planning and craftsmanship affect a successful print.	Printmaking, Relief printing, Plate/block, Carving tools, Positive/negative space, Ink / brayer, Edition / proof.	Explain environmental implications of conservation, care, and clean up of art materials, tools, and equipment. (VA:Cr2.2.8)	<p>Designing strong monochromatic imagery.</p> <p>Carving or constructing a printing plate safely and effectively.</p> <p>Inking and printing with control and consistency.</p> <p>Producing multiple prints of the same image</p> <p>Reflecting on craftsmanship and revisions</p>	<p>Prints allow artists to share ideas widely.</p> <p>Planning and precision are essential to successful printmaking.</p> <p>Positive and negative spaces work together to create a strong visual impact.</p>	<p>Completed edition of prints</p> <p>Process sketches and plate design</p> <p>Self-reflection on technique, challenges, and artistic choices in art portfolio</p>
3D Art & Sculpture	November/ March	3D art -Building, shaping, and joining techniques.	Form, Structure, 3D, -Balance / Stability, Construction	Apply relevant criteria to examine, reflect on, and plan revisions for a	Planning a sculpture through sketches or models.	Sculpture is about creating forms that occupy real space.	<p>Completed 3D artwork</p> <p>Planning sketches,</p>

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		How form, structure, and materials create sculptures.	techniques, Texture, Additive / subtractive methods.	work of art or design in progress. (VA:Cr3.1.8)	<p>Building stable forms using appropriate techniques.</p> <p>Safely using tools and materials (clay tools, needles, wire tools, etc.)</p> <p>Refining details and surface texture.</p> <p>Problem-solving structural challenges.</p>	<p>Strong construction and thoughtful planning lead to successful 3D artwork.</p> <p>Materials influence how a sculpture looks, feels, and stands.</p>	<p>models, or design notes</p> <p>Reflection on material choices and construction process in portfolios</p>
Watercolor & Nature Studies	December/ April	Watercolor painting, color, value, and brushwork.	Watercolor, Wash / gradient, Wet-on-wet / wet-on-dry, Transparency, Value, Layering / glazing, Observation, Texture	Analyze how the interaction of subject matter, characteristics of form and structure, use of media, art making approaches,	<p>Mixing and controlling watercolor paint.</p> <p>Using layering and transparency for depth.</p>	<p>Nature offers endless inspiration for artists.</p> <p>Watercolor's transparency and layering create mood</p>	<p>Technique practice sheets (gradients, washes, textures)</p> <p>Short reflection on process and artistic</p>

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				and relevant contextual information contributes to understanding messages conveyed. (VA:Re8.1.8)	Observational drawing from nature or reference images. Creating texture through brushwork and technique. Planning and completing a polished final painting.	and depth. Careful observation leads to stronger, more detailed artwork.	choices in portfolio