

Mount Pleasant Central School District

Photo I Design, 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.

This course introduces students to both the technical and artistic aspects of photography. It emphasizes manual camera control, composition, and post-processing techniques. Students will work with both 35mm SLR and DSLR cameras, gaining proficiency in ISO, shutter speed, aperture, and exposure settings to create well-composed and technically sound images. Through hands-on experience in the darkroom, students will develop and print black-and-white film. They will also learn digital photography techniques using Adobe Lightroom for color correction, workflow management, and digital photo retouching. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate proficiency in manual camera settings, apply compositional techniques, develop and print film, edit digital images using industry-standard software, and critically evaluate photographic works across various media.

Unit Title	Month	Content	Vocabulary	Standards	Skills	Big Ideas	Assessments
Compositional Bootcamp - Leading lines, balance, etc	1	Composition is the way your visual elements are arranged within the frame. As a photographer, you have control over what is within your frame.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMPOSITION • BALANCE • DSLR / SLR • ADOBE LIGHTROOM 	VA:Re7.2.HSI	Identifying and creating artwork based on nine compositions used in photography. Uploading and exporting organized contact sheets in Adobe Lightroom.	How does knowing and using visual art vocabulary help us understand and interpret works of art?	Students will take a series of photographs related to the 9 compositions.
Manual Control & The Exposure Triangle	2	Learning manual photography helps a photographer control the light in their camera. By learning the exposure triangle a photographer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHUTTER SPEED • APERTURE • ISO, • EXPOSURE TRIANGLE • F/STOP 	MA:Cn10.1.8	Students will explore key camera functions—shutter speed, aperture, and ISO—and how they combine for optimal exposure.	How does knowing and using the manual functions of the camera help an artist better understand and interpret photography?	Aperture, shutter speed, ISO/WB photographic challenges (worksheet activity while photographing to

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		controls the entire photograph.					see exposure triangle).
Still Life Photography	3	Photograph still lifes in a studio with various lighting setups. Control the light and camera settings while analyzing photographs in terms of f-stop, shutter speed, and ISO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CONTACT SHEET ● NATURAL LIGHT/ARTIFICIAL LIGHT ● OVER/UNDER EXPOSURE ● CORRECT EXPOSURE ● BRACKETING 	VA:Re8.1.HSI	Students will gain the understanding of light, principles of and camera parts by applying acquired classroom knowledge.	Confidence in photography comes from understanding how to control light. Light is the essential element that sculpts meaning in any photograph.	Create a series of photographs using a variety of camera settings. 8 perfect photos (digital) and 1 roll of film.
Analog Photography	4	This unit covers essential darkroom techniques: developing 35mm film, creating a contact sheet, using an enlarger, and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ENLARGER ● CONTRAST ● EXPOSURE ● DARKROOM CHEMISTRY 	VA:Pr5.1.HSII	Students will take a roll of film with an analog camera, learning to wind, develop, and	The physical art-making process connects us to history while creating physical prints using analog methods.	Shoot, develop and enlarge prints using film photography and darkroom chemistry.

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		producing a final print.	(DEVELOPER/STO P/BATH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENALRGING EASEL, • TEST STIP • CONTACT SHEET • DEVELOPING TANK • CONTACT SHEET GLASS • ENLARGER TIMER 		enlarge prints in the darkroom. They will also explore camera and enlarger terminology and use filters and test strips for their prints.		
Portrait Photography	5	A portrait is only as successful as their photographer. It is the role of the photographer set the portrait up using ideal camera settings and giving the model verbal ques so they are comfortable and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PORTRAIT LIGHTING STYLES (FRONT LIGHT, SIDE LIGHT, DOUBLE FRONT, SINGLE TOP), • WHITE BALANCE, • BODY 	VA:Cn10.1.HSIII	Skills in the unit include identifying the type of portraits (environmental/st udio, type and location of lighting used, and	Learning the art of portrait photography involves the intricate interplay between technical skills, artistic vision, and human connection.	Photograph portraits in a number of different settings to explore working with a model while using a variety of camera setting.

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		confident in the photograph.	LANGUAGE/POST ION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACKDROP (SEAMLESS VS. FABRIC) • VERBAL QUE 		analyzing where the light is coming from.		