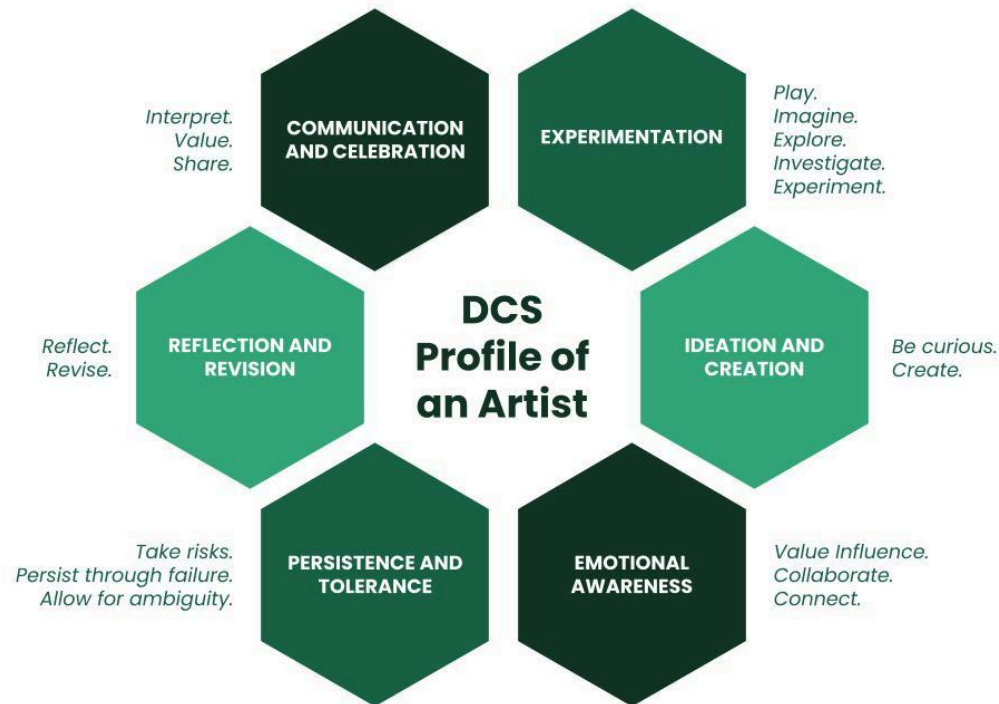




Dublin City Schools
Grade 8 Art and Design
Graded Course of Study
2026

Dublin City Schools
K-12 Visual Arts Education Graded Course of Study



DCS Profile of an Artist is a circular infographic featuring a central title surrounded by six green hexagons. Each hexagon contains a core artistic competency, paired with specific characteristics:

- **Communication and Celebration:** Interpret, Value, Share.
- **Experimentation:** Play, Imagine, Explore, Investigate, Experiment.
- **Ideation and Creation:** Be curious, Create.
- **Emotional Awareness:** Value Influence, Collaborate, Connect.
- **Persistence and Tolerance:** Take risks, Persist through failure, Allow for ambiguity.
- **Reflection and Revision:** Reflect, Revise.

Dublin City Schools
K-12 Visual Arts Education Graded Course of Study

Visual Arts K-12 Vision

In Dublin City Schools, we believe that visual arts learning is essential for all students. Through art, learners engage both sides of the brain, strengthening their ability to problem-solve, imagine, and create. The artistic process develops technical proficiency, critical thinking, and confidence while also nurturing empathy and inclusion through shared creative experiences.

DCS Visual Arts is committed to cultivating the dispositions of an artist by providing space for:

- Experimentation, Play as process, and Imagination – explore new ideas, materials, and approaches.
- Ideation & Creation – develop and refine concepts into artistic works.
- Emotional Awareness – express, process, and understand feelings through art.
- Persistence & Tolerance for Ambiguity – embrace challenges, failure, and uncertainty as part of growth.
- Skill Development – refine craft and achieve technical proficiency across artistic domains.
- Reflection & Revision – interpret, analyze, and improve work.
- Communication & Celebration – collaborate with peers and teachers to broaden perspectives and enrich artistic practice.

Through these practices, students in Dublin City Schools will develop the capacity to think and create like artists in all contexts. Cultivating artistic literacy equips learners with creativity, confidence, and critical reasoning, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.

K-12 Enduring Understandings

Creating: Artists use creative thinking and reasoning skills to perceive concepts and ideas to develop works.

Performing: Artists employ personal processes and skills to solve problems creatively and present work in various contexts.

Responding: Artists engage in analysis and interpretation to understand and evaluate artistic works.

Connecting: Artists understand and communicate the value of creative expressions in internal and external contexts.

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GRADE 8 ART & DESIGN

Course Goals

Students will further develop and refine their skills in drawing, sculpture, painting, printmaking, and ceramics as they explore the elements and principles of visual art in depth. This technical study will be enriched with examples of important art and artists who have worked in these areas. Students will be encouraged to express their original ideas through a wide variety of independent and group art projects including both 2 and 3 dimensional forms. This course will develop critical and creative thinking skills, technical ability, and an understanding of artistic history and heritage, as well as how art has been and is being used in culture to communicate and express ideas and attitudes.

PLAY, EXPERIMENTATION, AND IDEA GENERATION

- Artists use play and experimentation to develop an idea for the process of making art to an eventual finished product.
- Artists are able to identify why play, experimentation and idea generation are so important in the overall process of making art.
- Artists understand the value of idea fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration to thinking and creativity, and to developing and realizing their vision.

Creating	<i>Conceive and Develop ideas.</i>
	8.2CR Brainstorm, refine and select solutions for original works of art.
Performing	<i>Materialize and produce work.</i>
	8.2PE Independently select materials and techniques to create works of art.
Connecting	<i>Relate to personal and external contexts.</i>
	8.2CO Research artistic professions of personal interest.

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PERSISTENCE, TOLERANCE, VALUING INFLUENCE AND COLLABORATION • Artists see each other as a resource for information and to help refine ideas. • Artists soak up ideas from other people and from the world, and integrate inspiration and feedback in ways that are their own. • Artists are open to interpretation, embrace challenges during the making process, and are not afraid to take risks.	
Creating	<i>Conceive and Develop ideas.</i>
	8.3CR Demonstrate visual literacy through application of the elements of art and principles of design to communicate an idea.
Performing	<i>Materialize and produce work.</i>
	8.1PE Apply artisanship when preparing and presenting works of art.
Responding	<i>Understand and evaluate meaning.</i>
	8.3RE Distinguish visual characteristics related to the meaning of works of art. 8.4RE Understand how cultural factors affect what contemporary artists create.
Connecting	<i>Relate to personal and external contexts.</i>
	8.1CO Interpret how community context, beliefs and resources influence works of art. 8.3CO Discover how cultural differences impact personal perceptions.

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REFLECT AND REVISION, COMMUNICATION AND CELEBRATION - Artists understand that revision and reflection are an important component of creating a successful artwork. - Artists use a variety of mediums and methods to communicate things like ideas, emotions and messages. - Artists celebrate the creative process by making their thinking visible to an audience. Making artwork visible to others celebrates the ability of art to inspire change, evoke an emotional response, and form connections.	
Creating	<i>Conceive and Develop ideas.</i>
	8.1CR Determine how the choice of media relates to the ideas and images in works of art. 8.4CR Determine what it means to ethically create and share works of art.
Performing	<i>Materialize and produce work.</i>
	8.3PE Make aesthetic decisions utilizing the elements of art and principles of design. 8.4PE Provide and receive feedback as part of exhibition practices.
Responding	<i>Understand and evaluate meaning.</i>
	8.1RE Build relevant vocabulary to describe and analyze works of art. 8.2RE Differentiate between established criteria and self-assessment throughout the learning process.
Connecting	<i>Relate to personal and external contexts.</i>
	8.4CO Identify aesthetic choices within works of art.