

Course Title:	Grade 4 Art
Grade(s):	Grade 4

Course Description

Students in Grade 4 begin to expand on different overarching themes and concepts in the arts. Composition becomes an important part of the process as well as visual understanding. “Looking” expands as students use the natural world as a basis for the projects they are creating.

For fourth-grade students, the art curriculum shifts from basic exploration to more intentional skill-building and critical analysis.

Grade 4 students should be able to identify and use the seven basic elements of art in their work:

- Elements of Art: Identify and apply all seven elements—line, shape, color, value, form, texture, and space.
- Principles of Design: Explore principles like balance (including radial symmetry), contrast, unity, and emphasis.
- Color Theory: Correctly identify and label colors on a color wheel, mix secondary/tertiary colors, and create tints and shades.
- Perspective & Depth: Use size, placement, and overlapping to create the illusion of three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface.
- Technical Skill: Develop proficiency in various media, including drawing (portraits/landscapes), painting, sculpture (clay/papier-mâché), and printmaking.
- Innovation: Brainstorm multiple solutions to a creative problem and experiment with tools in unexpected ways.

Presenting & Exhibiting

- Curating: Define the role of a curator and understand the responsibilities of preserving and presenting artifacts.
- Preparation: Select and prepare personal artwork for exhibition in areas outside the classroom.
- Venue Comparison: Compare the purposes of different art venues like museums, galleries, and public displays.

Responding & Critiquing

- Art Criticism: Conduct oral and written critiques using specific art vocabulary to interpret ideas and mood.
- Comparison: Compare one's own interpretation of a work with the perspectives of peers.
- Visual Literacy: Analyze how visual imagery conveys messages and speculate on the artistic processes used by others.

Connecting Art to World & Life

- Culture & History: Connect visual characteristics of art to specific traditions and beliefs across different times and cultures.
- Personal Voice: Create art that communicates personal values, opinions, and identity.
- Interdisciplinary Links: Apply knowledge from other subjects, such as math (symmetry) or science (nature/climate change), to artistic projects.

Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Line Drawing (Observational and Exploratory)	Students examine the variety of lines used in the natural world. Exploration of how lines can be used to show emphasis is a focal point. Students take this line exploration into the drawing of letters and how lines used in nature can be expanded as a compositional approach to drawing. Students create unique and individual line drawings.	Approx. 2 weeks
Unit 2: Fall Landscape Paintings	Students explore more complex aspects of color and apply their understanding through painting. Building on their knowledge of the color wheel, they develop stronger observational skills and use color more intentionally in their artwork. Students also expand their understanding of symmetry and asymmetry by examining shapes and spaces within landscapes.	Approx. 2 weeks

Unit 3: Still Life Drawings	Students refine the understanding of line and begin to work on the use of contour lines and the definition of form in a drawing. Students expand on the use of space and symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes as they create unique and individual still life drawings.	Approx. 2 weeks
Unit 4: Winter Tree Paintings	Students examine a more advanced use of lights and darks in value studies of winter tree landscapes. Students begin to see how color can be used in a value approach as they create their winter paintings. Expanded use of line, shape, form, and space are also explored.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 5: Heart-Inspired Drawings	Students examine use of color and color washes with watercolor paints. Using a variety of paint and water application techniques, students explore different approaches to texture and color while expanding their understanding and use of organic and geometric shapes in their artwork. Students create a unique heart-shaped watercolor work.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 6: Still Life Collage	Students culminate their understanding of shape, color, and space by creating a unique two-dimensional still life collage. Through exploring the relationships between shapes, spatial arrangement, and color placement, students develop a deeper understanding of composition and the picture surface.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 7: Final Slab and Coil Sculptures	Students examine the slab and coil approaches to three-dimensional ceramic sculpture. Students use varied handbuilding techniques to create a unique sculpture of their choice. Through the application of texture to surfaces, students develop an understanding of how texture contributes to the overall impact and meaning of a work of art.	Approx. 4 weeks