

AP CERAMICS

SUMMER HOMEWORK / 2026

Due after Labor Day · Ms. Chapman · schapman@concordcarlisle.org

There are four prompts. Each one connects to skills you'll use in class on day one —looking closely, drawing what you see, researching artists, and asking better questions.

Do all four. Bring the sketchbook to school.

Any sketchbook works. If you need one: [Dick Blick online](#)

01 Object drawing

Pick one object you use, own, or find. Draw it three times from three different viewpoints — straight on, from above, from the side. Fill at least one full page per view.

■ What to draw

Anything physical: a cup, a tool, a shoe, something broken or worn. The more specific and ordinary, the better. (I don't care if you "can't draw well" That's not the point of the exercise. I will not be "grading you on how well you draw")

■ How to draw it

Observation only — no photos, no tracing. Draw what you actually see, including shadows, weight, and surface. Slow down.

■ Write one sentence per view

What changed when the viewpoint changed? What did you notice that you didn't see at first?

02 Texture page

Find 5 textures in the world around you. Record each one — by drawing, rubbing with charcoal, or photographing — and write one sentence about how you'd recreate it in clay.

■ Find them anywhere

Bark, concrete, fabric, rust, skin, food surfaces, architectural details, anything with physical texture you can examine up close.

■ Record each one

Pencil rubbing, close observation drawing, or printed photo taped in. Label where you found it.

■ Clay translation note

One sentence each: what tool, technique, or approach would produce this texture on a clay surface? Carving? Impressing? Slip? Coil construction?

03 Artist research

Find one ceramic artist whose work you don't fully understand. Look at it for a while. Write a page.

■ How to find one

- Search in google: "ceramic artists, pottery art, contemporary ceramics, clay sculpture".
- Go past the first result.
- Find someone whose work stops you, even if you're not sure why.

■ What to write

- What are you looking at?
- What's the material doing?
- What's the artist's apparent question or obsession?
- What do you not understand about it yet?

■ Include an image

Print and tape it in, or sketch from it. The image should be on the same page as your writing.

04 Ten questions

*Look at something — an object, a place, a photo, a material. Write ten questions about it. **Not answers. Questions.***

■ Start with what you see

- Describe it first, briefly.
- Then ask: Why does it look this way? What is it for? What happens if you change one thing about it? What's hidden? What's missing?

■ Open vs. closed

- A closed question has one answer (How tall is it?).
- An open question could lead somewhere (What does height do to this form?). Push toward open.

■ Circle the best one

The question you'd actually want to spend a year making work about. That's the one we'll talk about in Week 2.

BRING TO CLASS:

- Your physical sketchbook — all four prompts completed
- Photos of any clay work on your phone (if you made any, or if you saw any)
- No Google Drive upload needed — physical only

This work counts toward your first quarter grade. It will be reviewed in Week 2 critique.
