Year Overview

Course Overview

Welcome to 8th Grade Art!

Welcome to **8th Grade Art!** This course is designed for students who are ready to explore their creativity, develop their artistic skills, and earn **high school credit** while taking art in 8th grade.

Throughout the course, students will explore a variety of artistic techniques, materials, processes, and concepts. Students will have opportunities to experiment with new ideas, develop their creativity, solve artistic problems, and learn from the creative process.

This class will emphasize the **elements and principles of art**, as well as creating, presenting, responding to, and connecting through a variety of art experiences. Students will explore different artists, cultures, styles, and artistic processes while developing their ability to discuss, evaluate, and appreciate artwork.

Our classroom will be a **safe, respectful, and productive studio environment** where students are encouraged to take creative risks, make mistakes, problem-solve, and grow as artists. Students are expected to participate, follow directions, respect others and their artwork, care for classroom materials and equipment, and use studio time responsibly.

Because this course provides **high school credit**, students are expected to demonstrate responsibility, maturity, and consistent effort throughout the year.

By the end of the course, students will have developed a stronger understanding of the creative process, increased confidence in their artistic abilities, and a collection of artwork that reflects their individual ideas, effort, creativity, and growth.

Come ready to create, experiment, learn, and grow as an artist!

Contact Information

Teacher Name: Aurora Wiley
Email: Aurora.wiley@midlandisd.net
Room: Room 209

Classroom Expectations

Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by deadlines set forth by the teacher. Students must do their own work and ask for help when they need it. Students are expected to turn on their Powerschool notifications so that they are up to date on assignments and grades.

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In addition to following all Midland ISD and campus rules, the following expectations apply every day in the art classroom. Our goal is to create a safe, productive studio where everyone has the opportunity to learn and create.

- **Be Respectful.** Respect your teacher, classmates, visitors, artwork, supplies, equipment, and the classroom. Keep your hands, comments, and belongings to yourself unless given permission otherwise.
- **Be in Your Seat and Ready to Learn.** When the bell rings, be in your assigned seat with your materials ready. Remain in your assigned seat unless you have permission to get up. Do not wander around the room, visit other tables, or leave your seat to talk to friends.
- **Talk at the Appropriate Time.** Art is a social and collaborative subject, but talking should never interfere with learning. During demonstrations, instructions, videos, and critiques, voices should be off unless you are asked to participate. During work time, use quiet, appropriate conversation that is related to the assignment.
- **Raise Your Hand and Ask First.** If you need help, need to leave your seat, need a supply, or have a question, raise your hand and wait to be called on. Do not interrupt instruction or get up without permission.
- **Stay in Your Assigned Area.** Work at your assigned table or workspace. Do not move to another table, visit friends, gather around another student's artwork, or walk around the room without permission.
- **Be Prepared to Participate.** Have your supplies ready, listen to directions, participate in demonstrations and discussions, and use studio time to work. You are expected to begin working when instructed—not when you feel ready.
- **Do Your Own Work.** Your artwork should represent your own ideas, effort, and creativity. You may be inspired by other artists, but copying another student's work or presenting someone else's work as your own is not acceptable.
- **Take Creative Risks.** Art is about experimentation. Try new techniques, make mistakes, problem-solve, and learn from the process. You do not have to be "good at art" to be successful in this class.
- **Take Care of Our Studio.** Use materials and equipment appropriately. Stay at your workspace during cleanup unless you are assigned a specific cleanup job. The room should be clean and organized before you are dismissed. There should not be any trash on the floors.
- **No Food or Drink.** According to MISD guidelines, there is no food or drink allowed in the classroom. If you do not have a backpack, I will keep it in a secure spot. If the teacher or sub sees eating or drinking , the student will be asked to throw the food away and may have further consequences.
- **Follow Directions the First Time.** When the teacher gives a direction, stop, listen, and follow it. If you are confused, respectfully ask for clarification.
- **Follow the Classroom Handbook.** Follow all expectations, procedures, and policies outlined in the classroom handbook.

Remember:

You are responsible for your choices.

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Your choices affect your learning, your classmates' learning, and our ability to maintain a safe, respectful, and productive art studio.

Be Respectful. Be Ready. Stay in Your Space. Create.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted by students must be the student's **own original work** and demonstrate their individual effort, ideas, and understanding.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, tracing, copying another student's work, submitting someone else's artwork or ideas as your own, using unapproved Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, or using translators when they have not been approved by the teacher.

In the event of confirmed academic dishonesty, the student will receive a **zero** and can not make up the assignment or do an alternate assignment.

Students are encouraged to ask the teacher when they are unsure whether a resource, tool, or form of assistance is permitted. When in doubt, **ask first.**

Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Daily attendance is essential to language development. 8th Grade Art is a high school credit each day of instruction contributes to academic growth. Under Texas law (Texas Education Code Section 25.092), high school students must attend a class for at least 90% of the days it is offered to earn credit or a final grade. This "90% Rule" applies to all absences—both excused and unexcused—and applies even if a student has passing academic grades.

When students are present in class, they have the opportunity to practice their skills, deepen their understanding, develop their creativity, and stay connected to the course content.

Families should notify the school in advance whenever possible when a student will be absent. Because art is a hands-on, project-based course, **extended or frequent absences may make it difficult for students to develop the foundational skills and complete the artwork needed for success**.

Students are responsible for making up missed instruction, assignments, demonstrations, and studio work. It is the student's responsibility to come after school the day they are back to get

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makeup work unless told by the teacher. Tutorials may be required to help students catch up on content and complete missed work.

Regular attendance and active participation are important for success in 8th Grade Art and for earning high school credit.

Tardiness

Students not in the classroom by the time the bell rings for class to begin will be marked tardy.. Students will have consequences based on the amount of tardies accumulated throughout the six weeks.

Please notify the school if your child will be absent.

Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will grow as **confident and capable young artists**. They will develop the ability to use a variety of art materials, techniques, and processes to create original artwork and communicate ideas visually.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the **elements and principles of art** and apply them to their own creative work. They will learn to observe, experiment, problem-solve, make thoughtful artistic choices, and reflect on their creative process.

As students develop their artistic skills, they will also learn to **interpret, discuss, and evaluate artwork**, including their own work and the work of other artists. Students will explore how art connects to different cultures, communities, historical periods, and personal experiences.

8th Grade Art aims to help every student become a **creative, confident, and thoughtful artist** while developing skills in observation, communication, critical thinking, creativity, and self-expression that can be used both inside and outside the art classroom.

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Unit Name	Unit Objectives
Unit 1: Foundations of Art	Students will learn and apply the elements and principles of art while developing foundational studio skills, practicing classroom procedures, studying artists and artistic styles, and creating original artwork.
Unit 2: Drawing, Color & One-Point Perspective	Students will develop drawing skills, explore color theory, learn one-point perspective, and apply these skills through artistic studies, original artwork, and poster design.
Unit 3: Charcoal, Portraits & Oil Pastels	Students will develop observational drawing and value skills through charcoal and portrait studies while exploring oil pastel techniques, artistic styles, and personal expression.
Unit 4: Semester 1 Final Project & Portfolio	Students will apply skills and concepts learned during the first semester to create an original artwork and reflect on their artistic growth.
Unit 5: Two-Point Perspective & Advanced Drawing	Students will build upon foundational drawing skills through two-point perspective, advanced drawing studies, and more complex applications of color, value, proportion, and composition.
Unit 6: Advanced Color, Chalk & Large-Scale Art	Students will explore advanced color theory, chalk techniques, and large-scale drawing while applying composition, value, color, and craftsmanship to larger works of art.
Unit 7: Mixed Media, Watercolor, Collage & Visual Communication	Students will explore watercolor, collage, color paper, and poster design while creating artwork for real-world communication, including Crime Stoppers and other poster contests.
Unit 8: Oil Pastels, Art Show & Junior VASE	Students will apply advanced techniques and personal artistic choices to create polished artwork for display, art shows, and Junior VASE while studying artists and different artistic styles.
Unit 9: Semester 2 Final Project & Final	Students will create a final original artwork demonstrating the skills, techniques, creativity, and artistic growth developed throughout the year.

****Students will have an end of semester project and a final**

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Course Materials

Students are expected to have a their drawing journal, a spiral notebook and writing utensils everyday. There will not be a textbook along with teacher-curated and authentic materials.

Grading Policy

According to Midland ISD Grading Policy:

Grading:

Major Assignments (tests/ projects)	60%
Minor Assignments (warm ups, classwork, quizzes)	40%
Practice Assignments (as determined by teacher)	0%

Missed Assignments due to being absent*:
A student shall be allowed at least one day of make-up time for each day of absence. You will be expected to make up assignments, tests, or quizzes that you miss within the allotted amount of time. Make-up tests or quizzes may be different from the original.

Late Work: Students who do not turn in assignments by the designated date(s) may be subject to grade penalties.
1 school day late- A maximum of 90
2 school days late - A maximum of 80
3 or 5 school days late - A maximum grade of 70
After 5 school days, work does not have to be accepted and a grade of 0 may be assigned.

School-wide System of Communication

Communication with Families:

Parents and guardians can expect updates through email, phone calls, and the district's Power School system, where they can monitor grades, attendance, and assignments. Classroom announcements, reminders, and homework information may also be shared through Remind. Progress reports and report cards will be issued according to the MISD calendar, and parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled as needed or upon request. Families are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in [grade level or course]. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

Parent Signature : _____

Student Signature: _____

Date:_____