



Luehrs Junior High

Art Syllabus

(Grades 6–8)

Art Teacher: Carlos E. Martinez

carlos.martinez@gmail.com

Texas TEKS-Aligned Visual Arts Curriculum

35-Week School Year

Aligned to the Texas Education Agency middle school visual art TEKS for Art I, II, and III.

Course Overview

This course introduces students in grades 6–8 to the foundations of visual art through drawing, painting, constructive sculpture (papier mâché), design, art history, and creative problem-solving (projects & Thinking Games). Students will explore artistic techniques, historical and cultural influences, critical analysis, and personal expression while developing studio habits and craftsmanship.

The curriculum is designed for a 36-week school year and aligns with the four strands of Texas Art TEKS:

- 1. Foundations: Observation and Perception**
 - 2. Creative Expression**
 - 3. Historical and Cultural Relevance**
 - 4. Critical Evaluation and Response**
-

Course Goals

Students will:

- Develop technical art skills using a variety of media
 - Demonstrate creativity and originality
 - Analyze and discuss artworks using appropriate vocabulary
 - Explore art from diverse cultures and historical periods
 - Apply the Elements of Art and Principles of Design
 - Maintain craftsmanship and studio responsibility
 - Create a portfolio of completed artwork
-

Materials

Suggested classroom materials:

- Sketchbook/journal
 - Drawing pencils
 - Colored pencils
 - Markers
 - Watercolor/acrylic paint
 - Paintbrushes
 - Construction paper
 - Mixed media paper
 - Scissors and glue
 - Rulers
-

Grading Policy

Category	Percentage
Major Projects	40%
Daily Work/Participation	25%
Sketchbook/Practice	20%
Quizzes/Reflections/Critiques	10%
Cleanup/Studio Responsibility	5%

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Respect classmates, materials, and artwork
 - Participate actively in studio activities
 - Clean work areas before leaving
 - Use materials appropriately
 - Demonstrate effort and creativity
 - Meet project deadlines
-

3-Week Scope and Sequence

Quarter 1: Foundations of Art: Drawing & Shading

(Weeks 1–8)

Week 1

- Course introduction
- Studio procedures and safety
- Folder setup
- What is art?
- Introduction to Thinking Games: Nine-Man Morris (The Mill)

Week 2 Teks 1B

- Elements of Art: Line
- Line Variety exercises
- The Mill

Week 3 Teks 1A, 3A

- Durer's Grid
- Organic vs. geometric forms
- The Mill

Week 4 Teks 1B

- Thinking Games: Introduction to Chess

Week 5 Teks 1B

- Value and Shading Techniques

Week 6 Teks 1B

- Shading Worksheets

Week 7 Teks 1B

- Visual Line Design
- Aborigine X-Ray Animals

Week 8 Teks 1A, 2B, 3A

- Aborigine X-Ray Animals
-

Quarter 2: Painting & Printing (Weeks 9–17)

Week 9 Teks 1B, 2C

- Color Theory
- Primary Colors
- Secondary Colors

Week 10 Teks 1B, 2C

- Color Wheel
- Tertiary colors
- Complimentary colors

Week 11 Teks 1B, 2C

- Color Wheel
- Tint, tone, and shade
- Cool/Warm Tree

Week 12 Teks 1B, 2C

- Color Wheel
- Abstract Ping-Pong Painting

Week 13 Teks 1B, 2C

- Printmaking basics
- Collagraph
- Positive/Negative Space

Week 14 Teks 1B, 2C

- Collagraph Drawing
- Layout

Week 15 Teks 1B, 2C

- Collagraph Cut Out/Glue
- Crayon Testing

Week 16 Teks 1B, 2C

- Collagraph Cut Out/Glue/Prints
- Crayon Testing

Week 17 Teks 1B, 2C

- Collagraph Prints
 - Consistent quality in a series of 4 prints
 - Critique and Midyear Portfolio Review
-

Quarter 3: Sculpture and Mixed Media (Weeks 18–26)

Week 18 1B, 2C

- Introduction to 3D art: Papier Mâché
- Sculpture vocabulary

Week 19 1B, 2C

- Construction building techniques
- Specific Tabs

Week 20 1B, 2C

- Continue Papier Mâché Construction
- Recycled art armature

Week 21 1B, 2C

- Continue Papier Mâché Construction
- Smooth surface

Week 22 1B, 2C

- Papier Mâché Painting/Details

Week 23 1B, 2C

- Papier Mâché COMPLETION

Week 24 1B, 2C

- Graphic design basics
- Typography and logos
- Introduction to Lettering

Week 25 1B, 2C

- Illuminated Letter
- Medieval Art: Pen and Ink

Week 26 1B, 2C

- Illuminated Letter Inspired
 - Paint Letter in Gold/Silver/Copper
-

Quarter 4: Creative Exploration and Portfolio (Weeks 27–35)

Week 27 1B, 2C

- Introduction to Perspective
- Atmospheric
- Linear (worksheet)

Week 28 1B, 2C

- One Point Perspective Neighborhood

Week 29 1B, 2C

- One Point Perspective Neighborhood

Week 30 1B, 2C

- Two Point Perspective City Block

Week 31 1B, 2C

- Two Point Perspective City Block

Week 32 1B, 2C, 4A

- Collaborative mural or group artwork
- Portrait proportions
- Facial feature studies

Week 33 1B, 2C

- Portrait proportions
- Facial feature studies
- Final portfolio planning

Week 34 1B, 2C

- Surrealism/Abstract/Imaginative art
- Steam Punk Art

Week 35 1B, 2C

- Surrealism/Abstract/Imaginative art
- Steam Punk Art

Accommodations and Differentiation

Instruction may include:

- Modified assignments
- Visual exemplars
- Step-by-step demonstrations
- Small-group instruction
- Extended time
- Choice-based projects
- Adaptive tools/materials

TEKS Alignment Summary

This course supports middle school TEKS through:

- Creative expression using multiple media
 - Historical and cultural exploration
 - Art criticism and reflection
 - Technical skill development
 - Visual problem-solving and design thinking
-

Suggested Major Projects

- Color Wheel Painting
 - Perspective Cityscape
 - Self-Portrait
 - Landscape Painting
 - Clay Sculpture
 - Printmaking Design
 - Cultural Mask Project
 - Collaborative Mural
 - Final Independent Artwork
-

Recommended Instructional Strategies

- Demonstration-based learning
 - Peer critiques
 - Gallery walks
 - Sketchbook warm-ups
 - Project-based learning
 - Cross-curricular connections
 - Choice-based art activities
-

Optional End-of-Year Showcase

Students may participate in:

- Art show/exhibition
 - Community display
 - Student artist awards
-

For official TEKS information, see the [Texas Education Agency Fine Arts Standards](#) and [Middle School Art TEKS](#).