

Grade 8 Art

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8th Grade Visual Arts Syllabus

Course Overview: This 8th-grade Visual Arts course provides students with a comprehensive exploration of various artistic disciplines, including sculpture, painting, design, crafts, drawing, and art history. Students will develop skills and techniques while also studying the essential elements and principles of art. The course aligns with the National Standards for Visual Arts Education and encourages creativity, critical thinking, and appreciation for both historical and contemporary art forms.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Develop basic and advanced skills in a variety of visual art forms.
 2. Demonstrate understanding of the elements and principles of design.
 3. Analyze the impact of art history on current artistic practices.
 4. Communicate ideas visually through different media.
 5. Critique their own artwork and the work of others using appropriate art vocabulary.
 6. Explore personal expression through various artistic processes and mediums.
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National Standards for Visual Arts (Based on the National Core Arts Standards):

- **Creating:** Students will refine and apply techniques and work through a creative process.
 - **Presenting:** Students will present and reflect on their artwork, both in group and individual settings.
 - **Responding:** Students will analyze and interpret artworks from diverse perspectives.
 - **Connecting:** Students will relate their artistic experiences to societal, historical, and cultural contexts.
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Course Units & Topics:

Unit 1: Sculpture

Time Frame: 4 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Types of sculpture (freestanding, relief, installation)
- Materials used in sculpture (clay, wire, plaster, found objects)
- Techniques (modeling, carving, assembling, casting)

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr1.1.8:** Engage in making a work of art or design by exploring the use of materials, techniques, and processes.
- **VA:Re7.2.8:** Analyze the materials, processes, and ideas used in a work of art.

Projects:

- Create a small clay sculpture using additive or subtractive techniques.
 - Design a mixed-media sculpture using found objects.
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Unit 2: Painting

Time Frame: 5 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Types of paints (watercolor, acrylic, oil)
- Color theory (primary, secondary, warm/cool, complementary colors)
- Brushwork and texture
- Composition and perspective in painting

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.1.8:** Experiment with different materials and techniques to create a painting.
- **VA:Re8.1.8:** Analyze how artworks communicate meaning through subject matter and context.

Projects:

- Create a landscape painting using acrylic paints, focusing on color mixing and composition.
 - Create an abstract painting using a specific color scheme and brush techniques.
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Unit 3: Design

Time Frame: 4 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Elements of design (line, shape, form, space, texture, value, color)
- Principles of design (balance, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, unity, variety)
- Digital design tools (e.g., graphic design software)

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.3.8:** Develop an artwork or design that demonstrates the use of the principles of design.
- **VA:Pr5.1.8:** Develop and present a visual artwork or design in response to a specific problem or challenge.

Projects:

- Create a logo or digital design incorporating the elements and principles of design.
 - Design a poster for an event, focusing on visual hierarchy and message clarity.
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Unit 4: Crafts

Time Frame: 4 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Traditional crafts (pottery, weaving, textiles, woodworking)
- Crafting techniques and tools
- Cultural significance of crafts in different societies

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr2.1.8:** Use a variety of materials and techniques to create a craft that communicates a personal concept.
- **VA:Re7.1.8:** Analyze how art and craft traditions from various cultures influence one another.

Projects:

- Create a handwoven fabric using a simple loom technique.
 - Build a small functional piece (e.g., clay pot, woven bracelet) incorporating traditional methods.
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Unit 5: Drawing

Time Frame: 5 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Drawing materials (pencil, charcoal, ink, pastels)
- Techniques (contour, shading, perspective)
- Proportions and anatomy in figure drawing

National Standards:

- **VA:Cr1.1.8:** Refine drawing techniques and use the principles of design to create a personal expression.
- **VA:Re7.2.8:** Assess the ways in which drawing communicates meaning and intention.

Projects:

- Create a still life drawing, focusing on shading and texture.
 - Complete a figure drawing focusing on proportion and human anatomy.
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Unit 6: Art History and Cultural Context

Time Frame: 3 Weeks

Key Concepts:

- Overview of key art movements (Renaissance, Baroque, Impressionism, Modernism)
- Key artists and their contributions (e.g., Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso)
- Art and cultural contexts: How historical, social, and political factors influence art.

National Standards:

- **VA:Cn10.1.8:** Recognize and describe how art is influenced by the historical, social, and cultural context in which it is created.
- **VA:Re7.2.8:** Interpret the significance of a work of art and its relationship to culture.

Projects:

- Research and present on an art movement or artist from history, discussing their style, techniques, and impact.
 - Create a piece inspired by a specific art movement, applying relevant elements and principles.
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Assessment & Grading:

- **Participation & Effort (20%):** Class engagement, collaboration, and contribution to discussions.
 - **Projects (60%):** Evaluation based on creativity, technique, and use of the elements and principles of design.
 - **Art Critiques (10%):** Written and verbal reflections on personal work and peer art.
 - **Art History Tests & Presentations (10%):** Assessments on art history knowledge and the ability to connect historical contexts to contemporary art.
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Materials Needed:

- Sketchbook
- Drawing materials (pencils, charcoal, colored pencils)
- Acrylic paints, watercolor paints, and brushes
- Clay and sculpting tools
- Digital design software (optional, depending on school resources)
- Various craft materials (e.g., yarn, fabric, beads, wire)

Note: A detailed list of materials will be provided at the beginning of each unit, depending on the specific projects.

Conclusion:

The 8th-grade Visual Arts course will encourage students to explore and express their creativity across multiple mediums while developing their understanding of the technical aspects of art-making. By integrating art history, cultural context, and the study of the elements and principles of design, students will gain a well-rounded artistic education.