

Pojoaque Valley Middle School

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Kindness Rules !!

Introduction to Art * Mrs. Lauren Sabato * 2016-2017

Dear Parents,

Our District Focus for the 2016-2017 school year is To Improve Student Achievement and To Improve School Culture.

Course Objective:

The objective of Introduction to Art is for students to learn skills unique to visual arts, use art to express ideas, seek connections between art and other subjects, understand the creative process, analyze artwork, learn about other people and cultures through their art, learn how technology has influenced artists, and contribute to our community by sharing artwork. Students will complete reading and writing assignments, and apply mathematical skills in their art projects following the guidelines of the Common Core Standards. These new standards help ensure that all students are college and career ready in literacy and mathematics.

Lesson Modeling/Presentation/Guided Practice:

Lessons will include historical background and instruction on the art values and techniques of different cultures and time periods. Project based lessons will include a teacher demonstration and guided practice. Students will view educational videos about the lives of famous artists. Other videos demonstrating art techniques and terminology will be viewed at the same time as students apply the newly learned techniques and vocabulary. Students will learn the elements and principles of design and be able to apply this understanding to the analysis of their own artwork and the work of others. Students will be expected to read art textbooks and art magazines in class, complete writing assignments, and apply math skills in their art projects. This is not a "projects-only" class such as a summer camp art program or an after-school arts & crafts program; it is an academic study of art.

Student Activities:

There are three main units during the semester:

The first unit is weaving. Students learn about applying color symbolism and planning a design in preparation for creating a finished product. Students will create three finished weavings of progressively increasing difficulty and complexity. Students will also participate in an art critique of other students' weaving, and the weavings of professional artists.

The second unit is drawing. Students learn basic drawing and shading techniques in 2-D and 3-D, using pencil, charcoal, colored pencil and crayons. Students then apply these techniques to finished projects that are grounded in lessons about art history. Students will also critique each other's work and the work of professional artists. The third unit is painting.

Students learn basic painting techniques, the use and care of brushes, and the process of mixing colors. As in the drawing unit, students will then apply these techniques to finished projects that are grounded in lessons about art history. Students will also participate in an art critique of other students' painting, and the paintings of professional artists.

Alongside all units, students will read, write, and apply mathematics during their study of all lessons.

Assessment strategies:

Students will receive two grades per week. Grades are based on progress toward specific goals in Art that are aligned with New Mexico Content Standards for Visual Art and National Common Core Standards.

Art projects are graded with a rubric. Prior to beginning the project, students will be informed of the contents of the grading rubric. In this manner, expectations for each assignment are clear. Projects are not graded on “talent”; they are graded based on the students fulfilling the requirements of the rubric. There will be other grades for art critiques, written assignments, project reflections, Cornell notes, or quizzes.

Please note that Art projects can take anywhere from one day to a few weeks, depending on many factors. Therefore, projects will be given formative grades and summative grades.

***An Important Note about Grades in PowerSchool!!**

Assignments are posted prior to the due date. If there is no grade listed for your child’s assignment, that means it hasn’t been graded yet. This IS NOT the same as a zero. A zero will look like “0”, a non-entered grade will look like “--”.

Make up work:

Make up work in Art does not happen in the same way as for other classes. This is a hands-on project-based class where students are expected to use their time in class to make progress on their work. Also, art equipment may not be removed from the classroom nor do I expect students to have any art supplies at home. Therefore, my policies on make up work are as follows:

- 1.) For students with excused absences of short duration: The student will be excused from full completion of the project if they do not have enough time to finish. It is the student’s responsibility to write the days they were absent under their name on their work. I will review this policy and it will be posted in the classroom.
- 2.) For students with excused absences of long duration (hospitalization, serious illness, death in the family, etc). I will provide a written Art Critique assignment that can be done at home with any picture from a newspaper or magazine. This will substitute for project work missed.
- 3.) For students who do not complete their projects during classtime, there will be no extra credit work given at the end of the quarter to make up for not using time in class.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way is through email at: sabato@pvs.k12.nm.us. Alternately, you may leave a message at the school 455-2238. Please feel free to stop by and view the class at any time. You are always welcome to participate! Thank you and have a great school year!

Just a little about myself...

This is my 16th year teaching; my 14th year at Pojoaque Valley Middle School.

I received my B.A. from Kent State University in 1994. I completed an apprenticeship at the Cleveland Museum of Art. I became a National Board Certified Teacher in 2009. (see NBPTS.org)