

FINE ARTS: VISUAL ART

Enduring understandings and essential questions:

Humans create.

- What is art?
- Who is an artist?

The creative process develops ideas.

- How does art expand and enhance our thinking?

Systems are constructed to represent thinking and feelings.

- How does art record and communicate the human experience?
- How does art represent personal expression (exploration, insight)?

There is a relationship between art and culture.

- How does art reflect human culture?
- How does art influence what we can learn about ourselves and about our society?

FINE ARTS: VISUAL ART

The CHS visual arts program is the final sequence in the Clayton School District's comprehensive arts curriculum. This art program has been developed to provide meaningful experiences for those students who have an interest in the visual arts. Activities and work methods are employed to stimulate student interest and allow students to work toward individual expression. Students work with a variety of two and three-dimensional media in sequential study. Course content also includes investigating art history, learning to analyze and critique art, and making personal judgments based on acquired art knowledge. Through this approach, students will acquire appreciation, skills and a basic knowledge of art and its function in society. In the intro-level options, activities are carefully selected to provide a sequential art experience. As students progress through the curriculum, opportunities to explore areas of specific interest are increased. Greater flexibility is built into the program in the upper levels to allow for independent study, portfolio planning, and college preparation.

Recommended sequence of courses:

Art I
Digital Graphics I
Digital Photography I
Sculpture I

Art II
Digital Graphics II
Digital Photography II
Sculpture II

Art III
Digital Photography III
Art IV
Studio Art
AP Art Studio I and II

ART I

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 1 or 2

Art making will be the main emphasis of instruction in this course integrated with art history, aesthetics and art criticism. Working in a studio setting, students will follow a sequence of units in a variety of media. The skills of composition-building and creative problem solving are emphasized as students learn to use the elements and principles of design. Students will draft ideas and re-work assignments to learn the process of art. They will learn to make decisions about their individual artwork. Studying the work and methods of other artists, students will develop an understanding of the questions and issues of the larger world of art. Students will produce art and will learn ways to think and write about it. Journals/sketchbooks may be used to aid the thinking process. Students will create a portfolio of work reflecting the process and the products of the course. This portfolio will be discussed in the mid-term and final conferences. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

DIGITAL GRAPHICS I

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 1 or 2

Digital Graphics I focuses on the creation of artwork used in the advertising and graphics industry as well as the fine arts. Students will learn the foundational skills of composition and the computer as they explore and practice the methods and procedures of graphic design. Working in a digital lab setting, students will use computers, cameras, and the Adobe Creative Suite software to solve specific design problems. Class critiques and discussions will be an integral part of the process of learning about graphics and evaluating work. Students will learn ways to think and write about their artwork. The presentation of finished work will be an important part of building a final portfolio that will serve as the focus of the mid-term and final conferences. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

DIGITAL PHOTO I

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 1 or 2

Digital Photo I focuses on photography as an art medium. Image making will be the main emphasis of instruction, integrated with photo history, aesthetics and photo criticism. The skills of composition-building and creative problem solving are emphasized as students learn to use the elements and principles of design. The camera will be used as a tool to visually express ideas and improve skills of observation. Digital media will easily allow the reworking and editing of images. Class critiques and discussions will be an integral part of the process of learning about photography and evaluating work. Students will produce photographic prints and will learn ways to think and write about them. Presentation of final prints will be an important part of building a final portfolio. This portfolio will be discussed in the mid-term and final conferences. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

SCULPTURE I

9th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2

Semester 1

Sculpture I focuses on three-dimensional art making. Students are encouraged to experiment and make individual choices about the techniques they will employ. Working in a studio setting, students work in a variety of sculpture media and processes (clay, wood, found objects, paper, wire, plaster molds). The skills of composition building (in relief and in-the-round) and creative problem solving are further developed as students draft ideas and rework assignments in the process of art making. Studying the work of other artists, students will deepen their understanding of the questions and issues of the larger world of art. Students will produce art and will learn ways to think and write about their work. Journals/sketchbooks may be used to aid in the thinking process of the course. They will create a portfolio of work reflecting the process and the products of the course, which will provide the focus for the mid-term and final conferences. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ART II

10th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2

Semester 1

Prerequisite: Art I, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.

This intermediate level course expands on the concepts introduced in Art I. Art making continues to be the emphasis of instruction. Students are encouraged to experiment and make individual choices about the techniques they will employ. Working in a studio setting, students work in a variety of media (drawing, painting, mixed media, collage, printmaking). The skills of composition building and creative problem solving are further developed as students draft ideas and rework assignments in the process of art making. Studying the work of other artists, students will deepen their understanding of the questions and issues of the larger world of art. Students will produce art and will learn ways to think and write about their work. Journals/sketchbooks may be used to aid in the thinking process of the course. Students will create a portfolio of work reflecting the process and the products of the course, which will provide the focus for the mid-term and final conferences. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

DIGITAL GRAPHICS II

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 2

Prerequisite: Digital Graphics I, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.

This one semester course is a continuation of Digital Graphics I. The course will offer students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge of computers and graphic design to create artwork, design layouts and construct images and content necessary for publication and web work. Students will solve specific design problems using the Adobe Creative Suite software. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

DIGITAL PHOTO II

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 2

Prerequisite: Digital Photo I, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.

In this course, photography is more fully explored as an art medium and in combination and comparison with other art media. While the techniques of Digital Photo I are reviewed and reinforced, photographs become a means to an end, not just an end in themselves. More in-depth study of Adobe Photoshop will be explored. Images are enlarged, altered, recomposed, and printed on a variety of surfaces. Design exercises will be an important part of developing a strong sense of composition. Students are encouraged to experiment and make individual choices about the techniques they will employ. Emphasis is on developing a visual awareness and understanding of past, present, and future trends in photography as a medium of self-expression. Students will be expected to participate in discussions and to complete written work pertaining to the production, aesthetics, and history of photography. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

SCULPTURE II

9th – 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2

Semester 2

This one semester course is the continuation of Sculpture I. Media and processes are explored in more depth as concepts and skills are expanded. The course offers students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge of three-dimensional media to create artwork and explore and solve design problems. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ART III

10th – 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2

Semester 2

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art II, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.

In Art III, course content will include a range of open-ended studio assignments with the opportunity to explore a variety of solutions and media. During this course, students will learn the process of creating an artist's portfolio, including the selection of artwork and documentation. Aesthetics, art history, and criticism are explored in greater depth. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

DIGITAL PHOTO III

10th – 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester 1 or 2

Prerequisite: Digital Photo II

This is a one-semester course in advanced photographic design. Students will continue with the exploration of photographic design and will work to perfect skills in subject selection, shooting, printing, and computer manipulation. Students will develop approaches to photographic subjects and work methods that are best suited for their personal expressions and interests in photography. Students will also be expected to participate in discussions and to complete written work pertaining to the production, aesthetics, and history of photography. Presentations and papers may be required. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ART IV

11th – 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art III, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.

In Art IV, the student may choose an area of emphasis and create a series of pieces that represent the development of an idea or a technique. Students will also work to develop the breadth of their portfolio. Final portfolio preparation will be completed with a focus on college admission requirements. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

STUDIO ART

11th-12th Grade

Credit – 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: **Successful completion of Art IV, the equivalent, or recommendation of an instructor.**

This course offers studio experiences for students not pursuing AP Art Studio. While some assignments will be similar to AP Art Studio, requirements will vary and other self-directed assignments will be required. Students may work toward college admission portfolios if desired. Course content will include a range of studio assignments with the opportunity to explore a variety of solutions and media. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT – AP ART STUDIO I and II

11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: **Permission of Department Chairperson**

The AP Program in Studio Art is intended for the highly motivated student who is seriously interested in the study of art. Students should, however, be aware that AP work involves significantly more commitment and accomplishment than the typical high school art course and that the program is not for the casually interested. Note that the CHS AP Art program is a two-year program. The basic structure of the course is to prepare a portfolio for AP evaluation. Students can choose a general approach to their portfolio selections (painting, clay, photo, etc.), or they may concentrate in just drawing. The course will be offered on a yearly basis to allow students to present a portfolio in the spring of the *second* year. Two-year participation is recommended, but students may opt for one year of study in either their junior or senior year. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**