



Art Education Program

Philosophy, Goals and Assessment

We believe that an understanding and application of the visual arts is essential to the whole development of all students. Our visual arts program develops future citizens who are sensitive to their global community and immediate surroundings; and who aspire to improve the quality of life around them. As a record of human experience, the visual arts provides ways to understand societies, cultures, history and nature.

Through our comprehensive visual arts curriculum we encourage students to:

- **GROW CREATIVELY** by expressing personal thoughts and experiences in producing individual and cooperative works of art; utilizing compositional concepts, technical competence and media exploration.
- **GROW INTELLECTUALLY** by integrating general curricular ideals of problem solving, visual perception and individual expression.
- **GROW EMOTIONALLY** by responding to works of art with understanding and a nurtured sense of enjoyment.
- **GROW AESTHETICALLY** by using their senses to perceive and appreciate both natural and manmade environments.

Curriculum Content Standards:

1. Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
2. Use knowledge of art elements and principles of design
3. Choose and evaluate a range of ideas, subject forms and symbols
4. Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
5. Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their own work and the work of others
6. Make connections between art and other disciplines

A good art program builds on learned skills by increasing the complexity of the art concepts taught at each grade level. Good art lessons teach new ideas, concepts and skills, which provides opportunities for students to explore and control a variety of materials, increase problem solving abilities and visual perception, and are fun for the students. Art education provides an awareness of works of art by the great masters and an understanding of the elements of art and principle of design. The art experience develops resourcefulness and imagination, enhances self-esteem and allows all students to find success through self expression.