

Visual Arts - Syllabus

Course Overview

This course introduces foundational art concepts and an introduction to various mediums of art through use of a wide variety of materials. Students explore multiple media while developing personal expression, technical skill, and reflective practice.

Units of Visual Arts for 2025-2026

Drawing & Painting

Graphite, watercolour, acrylic, perspective

Foundations of Art (10h)

Elements & Principles of Design, (the basics)

Printmaking & Mixed Media (10h)

Relief prints, stencils

Digital & Media Arts

Digital design; posters, webpages, etc.

Sculpture & 3D Art

Cardboard, wire, and/or plaster

Personal Expression & Portfolio (15h)

Independent project, artist

Week-to-Week Schedule

Each week we will...

- **Reflections/Portfolio:** 15 min. reflection exercises. These are a range of art prompts for you to respond in sketch. They have a wide range (further descriptions on p. 2-3)
- **Technical drawing exercises:** these include basics of drawing such as perspective, shading, medium specific techniques (pencil shading, ink contour, blending colours, etc.)
- **Individual Project Work:** each week we will be working on unit projects. Students will have class time to complete their related projects
- **Personal Portfolio Work:** Each week one day is set aside for students to work on their personal portfolios. These are elective (chosen) projects that make up a final project within the course

A typical Visual Arts Week (Schedule)

Visual Arts Weekly Schedule					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beginning of Class	Formal instruction	Reflection/Portfolio	Reflection/Portfolio	Reflection/Portfolio	Review and highlights
Project Work	Experimenting with techniques	Individual project work time	Individual project work time	Individual project work time	Personal Portfolio Work time

Each day we will...

- 0:00 – 5:00 - Enter class: read the “today in class” message on board, get supplies, “be ready”
- 5:00 – 20:00(ish) - Beginning of class: either a reflections/Portfolio prompt, formal lesson, or review of instruction and highlights
- 20:00 – 55:00 – Project work time
- 55:00 – clean up

When you miss class:

you are responsible for what you miss. This includes:

- Individual projects (class work time you missed)
- Reflections/Portfolio (find out the prompt [on the class website] and complete)
- Portfolio work (class work time you missed)

Visual Arts Webpage

Our Grade 7-8 Art Class has its own webpage. This is where you will find it (<https://mrewert.edublogs.org/>)

- An ongoing list of concepts/projects we have covered in art
 - ...including sample work and additional materials to support your own creations
- A list of all the reflection/Portfolio prompts (in case you missed any)
- Instructional materials to teach individual concepts

Reflections/Sketches Collection

We will have some 15 min. reflections exercises. These are a range of art prompts for you to respond in sketch. They have a wide range.

- Examples of Reflections/Sketches Collection prompts:
 - Draw something that uses dark and light to make it look 3D
 - Design a symbol that represent excitement
 - Read this micro-story and represent how the main character feels
- Mediums: reflection/sketches collection prompts can use...pencil, charcoal, ink, pastel, etc. (the sky is the limit, but these are quick prompts so be mindful)

Individual Projects

In each unit we will have mediums to work with (pencil, paint, wire, etc.) and a specific assigned item(s) to work on, but within most assigned works, you will be given ability to work with your own creativity.

- For example, as part of our Drawing & Painting unit, we will have an assigned art piece using ink and water to create different shades to create emphasis and drama. Your option: what you choose to draw or represent is up to you, so long as you follow the basic intent (criteria) of the assignment.
- We will have individual projects as part of each unit of study.

Personal Portfolio

Your personal portfolio is expected to have a central theme. This is a collection of personal work that shows your individual interests in different mediums, forms of art, and personal expression with something to tie it all together.

This project is WIDE OPEN. You are encouraged to explore different forms, mediums, and expressions of art. You are encouraged to...

- Have a central theme. This means that you need to have a core idea that brings all of your pieces together. A theme can be very specific or wide open

Wide Open Themes	Very Specific Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animation• Light vs Dark• Graphic novels• Painting (different types)• Hope	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cartoons that I loved as a child• Use of light and dark to share what lights my life vs what I fight against• The superhero genre of comic books• The art of Van Gogh• Different artists that focus on hope in their work

- There are no limits to what your possible theme may be, we will work on this together

You are encouraged to **explore multiple mediums** of art (pencil, ink, watercolour, sculpture, and more), and when possible, to combine mediums for effect.

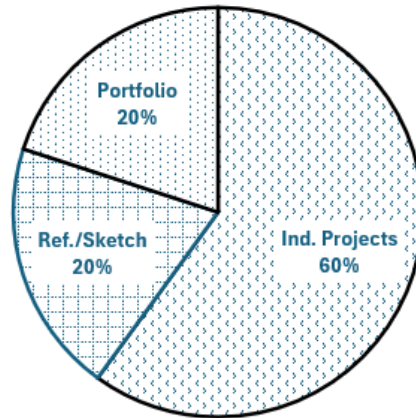
- Examples:
 - Combine watercolour and ink to bring out the detail
 - Create a sculpture with plaster and wire and then paint with acrylic
 - Sketches that use pencil, watercolour, and ink

Assessment

Assessment:

- Individual Projects: 60%
- Reflections/Portfolio: 20%
- Portfolio (final): 20%

ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN



Rubrics for assessment:

Each of your types of work are assessed using student-friendly rubrics. For each item, you fill out the rubric including a short write-up about why you feel you deserve the mark you are asking for.

See the sample rubric below (which have been sample-filled out).

- Once you fill it out, you attach to your artwork and hand in for Mr. Ewert to consider your final mark on the work. Your final work is assessed on the following criteria:

Why I deserve this mark:

Art Rubric

Criteria	0 – Not Demonstrated (0–49%)	1 – Beginning (50–59%)	2 – Developing (60–69%)	3 – Proficient (70–79%)	4 – Exemplary (80–100%)
Creativity & Ideas	Does not meet expectations; no evidence or effort demonstrated	Limited originality; minimal risk-taking	Some original ideas; some effort to explore	Good use of imagination; thoughtful choices	Highly original and imaginative; bold artistic risks
Craftsmanship	Does not meet expectations; no evidence or effort demonstrated	Sloppy or incomplete work	Some attention to detail	Clean, careful work	Exceptional attention to detail; professional finish
Use of Materials	Does not meet expectations; no evidence or effort demonstrated	Ineffective use	Basic handling of materials	Materials used effectively	Skilled, confident, and inventive use
Reflection / Intent	Does not meet expectations; no evidence or effort demonstrated	No explanation provided	Basic reflection	Clear explanation of artistic choices	Insightful, thoughtful reflection connecting work to intent
Cleanup & Work Area Management	Leaves work area messy and disorganized	Requires frequent reminders to clean	Cleans up work area with some prompting	Independently cleans and organizes workspace	Takes initiative to maintain and improve shared workspace

Student Reflection

I feel that I was very creative by exploring many different types of lines and a wide variety of shades. I was careful to use my space wisely to make not only show what I learned but it also worked as a poster.

