

AP and ART CHALLENGE *COURSE PHILOSOPHY & IB OVERVIEW*

Students will be given challenging, real-world projects and assignments typical of the art related field. High quality work is expected from students, and their work must meet the standards specified in the curriculum. Classroom activities will include reading, writing, researching, problem solving, presenting, and completing projects.

International Baccalaureate (IB) offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. There are more than 700,000 IB students in more than 130 countries throughout the world. In essence, IB is a different way of approaching education. It is employed to organize cross-curricular units to give students a broader perspective of course content. Its main goal is to increase student awareness of global issues and better prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century. This course will still follow the Michigan Merit Curriculum based on the State of MI High School Content Expectations, but will be organized into IB units.

The aim of IB programs is to develop students who strive to be inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. The traits of IB Learner Profile are embedded into every learning opportunity so students will develop their awareness of, and sensitivity to, the experiences of others beyond the local or national community.

Dear Students and Parents,

Congratulations on your acceptance into AP Studio Art or Art Challenge for this year! This is an advanced, college-level course and will require serious work and dedication as an artist. This is an opportunity for the visually gifted to excel and receive recognition on a national scale. It allows students to compare their work with that of other high school students throughout the nation and helps them prepare an excellent portfolio for study at the college level. Students unwilling to make this commitment are encouraged to rethink their program and consider a less challenging course of study.

In May, students will be required to submit a portfolio of 24 digital slides and 5 original works of art in either a Drawing, 3-D or a 2-D Design portfolio. 12 slides will be an exploration of a concentration area. The portfolios will be submitted in early May and shipped to the College Board

where they are evaluated anonymously by a panel of high school and university art instructors as to quality on a 1 to 5 scale. Each section of the portfolio – QUALITY, CONCENTRATION, and BREADTH -- is scored separately and then combined into a composite score. Students who receive a passing grade of 3 or higher in this composite score can receive college credit for the AP course.

3D Art

3D Art and design is intended to introduce the formal, compositional, and structural problems of dealing with form and space. The objective of this course is to give you a foundation of skills and vocabulary for solving problems with creating three-dimensional objects – that is, *art!* The basic skills are intended to lead the serious student toward more advanced approaches to making three-dimensional objects and to an understanding of structure. These structures can be in the form of sculpture, functional objects, jewelry, architecture, clothing or other three-dimensional objects. Basic concepts and the elements of three-dimensional design will be introduced in class with assigned projects and readings. These assignments will be discussed in a critique on or around their due date, unless otherwise specified or arranged.

Honor Code

This course will be conducted under an honor code. All students will be expected to do their own work. At times, students will be given projects or exams that must be completed outside of class. Violating this code could give students an unfair academic advantage and could result in the students being removed from the course. Professional use of the art room and its contents will be expected, and all students will be required to clean up their studio space in a timely and complete manner. All artwork must be removed at the end of the academic year, or unclaimed work will become the property of OWOSSO HIGH SCHOOL (unless arrangements are made with the department prior to the end of the academic year).

Open Studio / Studio Art Class

In this course, you are expected to create a rather large portfolio of work. All students must be willing to create approximately one piece of original artwork per week in order to be successful in this course. To help to achieve this goal, a series of open studio classes (held at the high school) will be offered to all students in the art department. (Open Studio dates will be announced at a later date.) Some of these meetings will be open for students to work on projects independently and some will be structured figure drawing sessions with a model. It is important that all students arrive on time and ready to work during these meetings.

Homework

As in any college level course, it is expected that students will spend a considerable amount of time outside the classroom working on completion of assignments. Ideas for projects or solutions to problems should be

worked on in a sketchbook both inside and outside of class. The sketchbook is an essential tool in recording ideas, capturing visual information, working on compositional issues and just experimenting. Sketchbooks will be checked every two weeks for progress and will be graded. (For 2-D and drawing portfolio students, some of these drawings may be used for the final portfolio, so care needs to be taken in using the full page when completing the various sketchbook assignments.)

3D and Advanced 3D Breadth

Jewelry, cups, bowls, plates (hand-built or hand thrown), bird houses, portrait heads, entire figures, clothing items, welded metal, modular designs (paper, balsa or cardboard), cardboard chairs, assemblages constructed from found materials, wall pieces, organic sculptures, plaster casts, plaster carvings, combination pieces involving three-dimensional and two-dimensional designs.

Assignments/Grades/Evaluation

Work is often very individual and experimental so grading, at times, can prove to be very difficult. However, there are standards of quality that will be expected in student artwork. These expectations will be based on a range of criteria including, but not limited to: EVIDENCE OF THOUGHT, CARE, and EFFORT demonstrated in the individual piece of artwork. All of these elements are discussed with students both individually and in scheduled classroom critiques.

All students in the class have talent and should receive:

--The grade of an "A" if work that meets the 12 slides per term quota is turned in on time.

--The grade of a "B" indicates deadlines are not being met or the student is not putting forth enough effort in the artwork.

--The grade of a "C" on the 5 or 10-week grade report indicates the student is probably not ready to take the course at this time and should consider a less-demanding course, perhaps taking the AP course the following year. Some student might not be ready for a college-level course.

Attendance

Parents and students should be aware of Owosso's "on time" policy of tardiness and absences. These are explained in detail in the student handbook.

Costs

Depending on the seriousness and the level of the art student, the costs for this course may vary. However, the costs usually include the following:

ARTWORK COLLECTION: \$20.00 will be collected from each semester from each student in order to keep the artwork created in this course. These funds are used to purchase supplies for future projects and they are crucial for the art department. This can be cash or a check made out to Owosso High School Art Department and is due on the first day of each semester. This lab fee allows students to use better quality paper, paint, chalks, and tools. These materials give better results, last longer, and foster professional attitude toward individual student artwork.

--**AP Exam Fee.** Students need to pay the AP exam fee when it is announced in the second semester. The AP Exam covers the processing and scoring of the AP Exams.

--**Hardbound or Spiral Bound Sketchbook, \$6 - \$12.** This is needed ASAP and can be purchased at any art supply store. Students will be given assignments for their sketchbook on the first day of school (see the "Sketchbook Assignments" tab on the course website for further info).

--Suggestions for the ART BIN of the SERIOUS ART STUDENT.

Parents who wish to give a gift to their students artist, or students who wish to acquire some personal materials, might consider the items on the following list:

- An "ART BIN" (like a fishing tackle box) to organize supplies
- A set of PRISMACOLOR COLOR PENCILS, the 24-60 color set
- DRAWING PENCILS of varying hardness
- VINE or COMPRESSED CHARCOAL
- ERASERS- Kneaded, Pin Pearl, Magic-Rub
- ALPHA COLOR CHARCOAL SET
- OIL PASTELS (*Prismacolor* is a good brand)
- X-ACTO blade
- EBONY BENCILS (great for strong darks within artwork)

Finding 3-D Design Materials

The 3-D Design course can be an expensive course to introduce at any school. Be on the lookout for cheap or free sculptural materials. Items that have been used include: scrap lumber from the lumber yard, tin cans, cardboard boxes, fabric scraps, yarn scraps, metal, wire, stones, shells,

broken pottery pieces and ceramic tile “left-overs”. Clay, plaster, some glass and paper mache’ materials will be available in the classroom.

Furniture Auction

The 3D art students hold an annual art auction to help pay for field trips and upcoming events. More information on these exciting opportunities will follow and parents are welcome and encouraged to help with the auction.

AP Student Exhibitions

The students will participate in the annual student art show near the end of the academic year. (More information to follow.)

AP students are encouraged to participate in exhibitions and competitions. Notice of these opportunities will be given to the students as they become known and available to the art department. Every effort will be made to make students aware of scholarship competitions and grants when applicable either through the art department or Owosso High School guidance office.

Please “Google”-- “AP Central” for more information on AP Studio art and the Portfolio Process. All AP students and their families are encouraged to view the student work found on this informative website. More information on the College Board may be obtained by visiting:

www.collegeboard.com

Parents should be aware that class assignments could involve working from photocopies of paintings and drawings of classic nude figure studies that the students will interpret originally. If this poses a problem for a student, an alternative subject choice will be given. Some R-rated movies or videos might be shown, but only with parent notification and approval.

All work must be original. If students use someone else’s work or image as a basis for their own pieces, there must be SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION to the original piece of artwork for it to be considered original!

Work is evaluated in progress, through critiques and in the finished state. Classroom rubrics will be distributed separately in an effort to provide specific grading criteria.

Please note that at OWOSSO HIGH SCHOOL, all AP classes have weighted grades. (Please see the student handbook for further information on

weighted grades.) It is possible to receive more than a "4-point" for participation in the AP Studio Art Classes.

As a department, we would like to thank you for supporting your student artist.

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*I have read the overview for Owosso High School's art courses. I understand and agree with the course description and conditions.

Parent or Guardian_____

Student_____