

Drawing



Course Overview

Drawing I is offered as an introduction to the several techniques and mediums within this mode of artistic expression. Drawing is an important skill for young artists to master, as it is used in planning projects of all forms as well as understanding spatial relationships. It is the most portable and inexpensive of all mediums.

Class Curriculum:

We will be following the text of a well-known, though out-of-print, drawing book: *Drawing: The Creative Process* by Seymour Simmons III. We will also use some exercises from *Drawing On the Right Side of the Brain* by Betty Edwards. Both texts emphasize the use of traditional drawing techniques and are well illustrated. In the following weeks we will focus on:

- Different modes of seeing and drawing
- Basic techniques and materials
- The elements of drawing
- Still Life
- Landscape
- Anatomy
- Self-portrait

Course Objectives:

Though we will be following the National Standards for the Visual Arts, I have modified them slightly to reflect our goals for this specific medium. Students will:

- Understand the possibilities and limitations of the types of media presented to them
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics of their drawings and the drawings of others
- Use knowledge of techniques and artistic elements
- Choose and evaluate a number of different drawing styles, subject matter, and ideas
- Understand the importance of drawing in relation to art, history, and cultures.

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Course Expectations:

- **Studio Work** A majority of the work that will be accomplished in this class will be completed in the studio. Students will be expected to work diligently during this time to keep up with the rigorous pace of the assignments. Classes that are missed must be made up during extra instruction or during open studio after school.
- **Homework** homework will be assigned to students in the form of exercises that are to be completed in their sketchbooks. Most assignments will have a 20-30 minute time limit, though on occasion I might assign an hour-long assignment over a long weekend. Late homework will not be accepted, as the assignments will give the student practice for the work they will complete in class.
- **Conduct** Drawing is a medium that requires one's full attention. Disruptive behavior cannot be tolerated in a studio environment. Students are expected to arrive on time and ready to work. They are responsible for the materials given to them and for the care of their own work. All projects are to be kept in the student's portfolios.
- **Evaluation**--Students will self-assess each project according to our class rubric. Each student will be given time to confer with me about his or her progress. Evaluation is based on the student's effort and ability to follow the given assignments and instructions, participate in critique, and display work.

Class Materials:

- Three-ring binder (school store)
- Sketchbook (black, bound can be a used one)
- Portfolio (provided)