

Kensington Woods HIGH SCHOOL



Scholarship · Character · Purpose

General Course Information

Course Title	Middle School Art
Description	This course is designed as an exploration into art making and creative thinking. Students will develop creativity skills as well as learn art-making and composition techniques, principles, and concepts through a variety of techniques, methods and media, exposing students to a variety of artistic experiences. Students will make art that expresses their ideas and opinions about their subject through visual means. Emphasis will also be placed on exploring contemporary and historical art and artists.
Room Number	107
Faculty Name	Mrs. Pratt
Contact Information	517-545-0828 jpratt@kwoods.org
Course Website	www.pratt.kwoods.org

Introduction

Art communicates ideas through a medium.

This course is designed as an exploration to art making and creative thinking. Whether planning to pursue art in your future, or rather just for enjoyment, art provides us a new way of seeing and thinking about our surroundings. Making art provides us with a way to express our ideas and feelings in unique ways. Examining art and its history provides us a way to understand what happened in the world in the past and present.

In this course, you will work towards Michigan's Merit Curriculum and the National Core Arts Standards in the visual arts by developing ways to think critically about art and become more creative as well as learn about techniques, principles and concepts in a variety of art media.

Course Expectations

You are expected to work hard and try your best. You are also expected to be respectful and responsible students inside and outside of the art classroom (studio). This includes respectful and responsible behavior towards your class work, classmates, me and classroom.

Students are expected to keep up with projects and assignments that will be worked on daily in class as well as with work that may be needed to be done outside of class.

The day to day class will consist of project planning and work time, discussions and explorations into creativity and media.

To be successful with this class, you must work continually. It is very easy to leave larger projects until the last minute, but art making is a process. It takes time to evolve ideas and techniques and by working continually on your projects and sketchbooks, you will find yourself a much more successful artist.

Studio Environment

I expect you to challenge yourself with your ideas and not be afraid to take risks. It's ok if an artwork doesn't work the first time. Things can be revised, modified and improved through reflection and effort and the artwork can become successful. I feel the most important part of making an artwork is not the end result but the process of making the work. The studio should be a safe place for all artists, so you are expected to be respectful and constructive with your comments about others' work. Everybody enters this classroom with different experiences and ability levels and it is the goal of this class to improve you to the best of your ability. Everybody can learn how to do the things we will do in this classroom and be successful as long as they put forth their ideas, a positive attitude and effort. Although art is a visual medium, your ideas are equally important to your technique.

Technology in the Classroom

In this class we will use various types of technology to help us research, share ideas and reflect. This includes, but is not limited to: internet use, email, Google programs and video. When technology based assignments are given, students will be expected to complete them on time and make plans accordingly if internet access is not available at home. Students will be provided with access to any technology needed to complete the requirements of this course through Kensington Woods Schools.

However, in keeping with school policy, cell phones will not be allowed unless explicit instruction is given by the teacher.

Course Content

Throughout the course we will cover a variety of topics focused on having you working as, thinking like and becoming an artist through the exploration of a theme or question. The themes that we will cover will depend on student interest, teacher interest, current events, contemporary and historical art inspirations and other influences.

There will also be ample opportunity for choice, where students will direct their inquiry and investigation into the visual arts by designing their own projects and goals.

Course Materials

Much of the materials needed for the class will be provided by Kensington Woods. You will be taught proper usage of studio materials, computers and programs and are expected to treat them respectfully. However, you will be responsible for obtaining the following supplies:

Sketchbook

Minimum size: 5.5 in x 8.5 in.

Minimum pages: 75, unlined (most students used 100+ pages last year)

You will be expected to complete many assignments and explorations in your sketchbook; you are expected to bring your sketchbook to class every day. Choose a size that is comfortable for you to carry with you (8.5 in x 11 in. or 9 in. x 12 in. are good examples). Also, please choose a thicker quality paper (60 lb+). You may need to purchase a second book later in the year if you use up all your pages.

Sketchbooks are available at art supply stores, or craft and office supply stores like Staples, Michaels or Joann Fabrics. Some drug stores and dollar stores even carry them.

Portfolio

Minimum size: 19 in. x 25 in.

The portfolio will be kept in class and allow you to keep track of your own work (parts and whole) and keep it clean and presentable. Some of you may be planning on pursuing art beyond high school, so the portfolio becomes imperative to keep work neat and presentable for portfolio reviews. We will also be using past work as reference and reflection material throughout the year.

Portfolios are available at art supply stores or craft stores like Michaels or Joann Fabrics.

Folder

8.5 in x 11 in., two pocket

You are expected to keep class handouts and papers organized in a two-pocket folder. Folders are to be brought to class every day.

Supply Due Date: Monday, September 23, 2019

Important Notes about Supplies:

- You can often get great coupons from Michaels or Joann Fabrics by signing up for their email newsletter, in the weekly circular or from their app.
- All supplies need to have your name and "MS Art" written clearly on them. If you have any problems obtaining the required items, please feel free to contact me.

Grading

Grades will be based on how well you meet specified course objectives/learning targets through class projects and assignments. Before each unit, you will be given the things I expect you to be able to accomplish by the end of the unit. You will often be assessed by both you and me throughout the unit. If you struggle with a target, you will have opportunities to improve grades as desired by meeting with me and discussing what knowledge and skills you need to work on to meet the goals of the assignment and class. This topic will be discussed at further length in coming weeks. If you have any questions about grading, please don't hesitate to contact me.

KWS follows the following grading scale:

A= 95-100 (4.0)	C+ = 77-79 (2.3)
A- = 90-94 (3.7)	C = 73-76 (2.0)
B+ = 87-89 (3.3)	C- = 70-72 (1.6)
B = 83-86 (3.0)	F = below 70 (0.0)
B- = 80-82 (2.7)	

Your grade will consist of assessment of the following:

70% Summative Assessments (summative means assessments that sum up your learning)
Includes major projects and reflections

20% Formative Assessments (formative means assessments that form your learning, or where you practice your learning)

10% Summative Final Project/reflection
End of semester project/reflection

You and your parents can check your progress at any time using MISTAR, our online grading and record keeping program. For more information about MISTAR, visit the school's website, www.kwoods.org.

Turning in Work

All assignments are expected to be completed with quality and turned in by the due date. A student is not eligible to revise a project unless they turn something in on the due date.

However, if you are struggling with a project, or need more time, please talk to me in advance of the due date (at least 24 hours). If you are working and putting in your best effort, the due date can be extended for you. However, know that the class will move on and you will be expected to come in and work on the project outside of class (before school, after school, lunch). I am often available during all of those times with advance notice.

Please keep in mind that you must talk to me BEFORE the due date (at least 24 hours) to be granted an extension.

Revision

I expect you to put in your best effort on your work and master the content. If you do not master the content of a unit/project by receiving at least a 70% on the work, I often will request you revise the project until you get at least a 70% before you receive credit for the assignment. We will work on that on a one-on-one basis if necessary.

If you receive a 70% or above but are still not happy with your grade, you are more than welcome to revise your projects at any point during the semester and submit them for a revised grade.

If you would like to revise a project, please speak with me to review what you should work on to revise the project. A reminder that the Request to Revise form is required and revisions must be completed within 2 weeks of your project being returned (see Request to Revise form for full Revision expectations).

Classroom Expectations



Absences

If you are absent, you are responsible for obtaining and making up missed work.

Material Use

Students are expected to use materials responsibly and with respect. That means putting things away where they belong, cleaning up after themselves and not wasting materials. Students not treating materials with respect will lose the privilege to use them.

Cell Phones/ Electronic Devices

Cell phones and electronic devices are not allowed out during class during instruction or presentations/critiques without teacher permission. At times you may use them for music or research with teacher permission, but never during whole class or group activities. Both headphones should be out of the ear during whole class or group activities.

Being out of Class

Students are expected to be responsible about being out of class. Students may not leave class the first 15 minutes while the class is getting started. Students are asked to alert the teacher when they need to use the restroom but are asked not to leave class when whole class or group activities are in progress. Only one student is allowed to be out of the class at a time to use the restroom. If a student is out of class more than 15 minutes (unless they are with another teacher), it will result in an absence.

Coming Prepared to Class

All students are expected to come prepared to class, which means you come with your sketchbook, a writing utensil, your folder and any work you have to turn in or work on during class.

Extra work time

If you need more time to work on a class project, you are expected to take the initiative and schedule time in advance with me to work on your assignment before school, after school, during lunch or during advisory, leaving you enough time to complete the assignment on time. If you need time beyond that, please talk to me in advance to make appropriate arrangements.

Computer Labs

There is absolutely no food or drink in the computer labs. While in class and in the labs, you are expected to follow all rules of the computer labs and your Computer Use Agreement.

File Storage

You will be able to store your project files on your Google Drive or the School's Server (the Art Drive). We will review the options in class. You also have the option of using a USB drive, but forgetting your drive is not an excuse for not having your work.

Respect

My primary goal in classroom management is that a respectful classroom environment is created. This means respect for all members of the classroom community, respect for the materials and respect for the room through your actions, words and thoughts. This includes appropriate language and behavior. Students who are not able to participate in the class respectfully will be dealt with appropriately. This includes following school rules regarding cell phones, students out of class and other policies.

It is my goal that this course provides you with the knowledge and tools to create a lifelong appreciation of art and design. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I am always available to answer questions or provide help to both students and parents. I look forward to a great year!

Thank you,

Jessie MacGonigal Pratt

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