

Lyon School Visual Art Program Curriculum



The District 34 art curriculum is organized around the Illinois State Goals and standards. The goals and standards involve understanding the elements and principles of art, use and knowledge of tools and processes in the production of art, and an understanding of the role that art plays in civilizations past and present. Art concepts, tools, and processes are sequenced to build skills and knowledge relative to the children's developmental needs.

What is Visual Art All About?

Creativity

Through the creative process students build critical thinking skills and increase their ability to creatively solve problems. They question, investigate, observe and experiment. They evaluate and reflect. And ultimately they create, communicate and share what they have learned.

Elements and Principles of Art

The elements and principles of art includes line, shape, color, shape, form, texture, space, value, balance, pattern, movements, contrast, emphasis, rhythm and unity. There are a lot to learn and know! At the primary level we begin by introducing children to a few at a time, giving them a foundation for later years. By second grade children are able to identify many forms of elements and principles in the work of others as well as apply them to their own artwork.

Art History

Art tells a story. We can learn about and better understand other cultures, time periods, and people through their art. Art history helps us realize the importance of telling our own stories and

discovering similarities and differences that we have with others.

Criticism

Art criticism involves discussing and understanding the use of elements and principles of art and how they create expression, theme and style in our own work and the work of others. Students can learn to make informed judgments about art based on knowledge and not just opinion. Talking about our work and listening to others talk knowledgeably about art can help students create solutions to problems and give us new ideas.

Production

Each grade level experiments with different art media and processes such as drawing, cutting, gluing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Through these, students learn about and use different tools and develop basic skills. These skills enable students to communicate in another way.

Integration

For visual learners, integration is the key to learning concepts in all curricular areas. In addition, integration of subjects reinforces concepts for all learning styles and creates a greater understanding and enthusiasm for learning.

Your child will leave Lyon's visual art program with:

- An ability to communicate visually
- Creative problem solving skills
- An ability to make informed decisions and statements about art
- An appreciation for art
- A feeling of success and accomplishment
- Exciting compositions that will reflect what s/he has learned

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