

Visual Arts

Grades 6-8

Overview

Visual arts content standards for Grades 6-8 provide a bridge between elementary and secondary visual arts education. Students in Grades 6-8 possess varying levels of maturity as well as an array of learning styles. They are in a state of transition in both physical and emotional growth and are acquiring a broader range of understanding of the world around them. The backgrounds of these students include diverse family structures as well as diverse social and emotional environments. Students at this age want their works of art to look more realistic. They are becoming more proficient technically; however, they are still developing a sense of self-confidence and are refining motor skills. Therefore, they need to be encouraged to develop their creative imaginations. A developmentally appropriate curriculum provides the foundation these students need to build confidence in their creative and artistic abilities. The visual arts classroom provides a safe and appropriate learning environment for media exploration and self-expression. An active, structured, and stimulating environment that allows for flexibility best meets the growing needs of the student artist.

In Grades 6-8, the visual arts curriculum centers on producing, responding, and understanding art. Production encompasses traditional and exploratory subjects, techniques, styles, and media, including the latest digital and multimedia resources. Responding involves exploring issues from the domains of criticism and aesthetics. Understanding then grows out of the themes and skills from the discipline of art history. Content standards are designed not only to equip students with visual arts knowledge and skills, but also to enable them to develop a respect and appreciation of the visual arts. Through arts education, students become informed consumers and patrons of the visual arts.

The Grades 6-8 visual arts course is designed for all students, regardless of visual arts background, ability, or academic achievement. It is recommended that this course be taught by a visual arts specialist. While this course may be appropriate for any middle-level grade, a student may only take the course one time. Continued visual arts experiences in Grades 7 and 8 should be accomplished through the use of Level I Visual Arts standards.

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Produce

Students will:

1. Create works of art utilizing a variety of traditional and nontraditional media and techniques.
Examples: torn-paper collage, weaving, wire sculpture, clay relief
 - Applying steps artists use in the production of art
 - Applying the elements of art and principles of design to the production of two- and three-dimensional artwork
Examples: two-dimensional—monochromatic paintings, found or natural objects, prints, texture-rubbing compositions;
three-dimensional—papier-mâché masks, clay whistles
 - Creating original multimedia works of art
Examples: television broadcasts, digital imaging, multimedia presentations
 - Creating original works of art using observational skills
Examples: drawing a shoe; painting a still life; creating a landscape in mixed-media; creating timed, gesture studies of a figure
2. Produce works of art using one- and two-point perspectives.
Example: drawing a cityscape or still life of geometric shapes that uses a vanishing point and horizontal line
3. Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.

Respond

4. Apply appropriate vocabulary in discussing a work of art.
5. Reflect upon and assess the characteristics of their (students') work and work of others.

Understand

6. Employ the vocabulary of the visual arts
7. Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines.
8. Understand the visual arts in relation to history and culture.
9. Identify art-related careers