

David E. Owens – Art Department

Department Philosophy: To encourage student curiosity and creativity for the purpose of inventive risk taking – which is essential for opening the avenues of critical and creative thinking.

Units of Study

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Unit 1	Students will create a scene (foreground and background) and paint it using only the primary colors. Any other colors must be made through mixing paints.	The students will make a cartoon enlargement. Students print out a cartoon character and draw a grid over it with a T-square. They will draw a larger grid with the same dimensions and draw the cartoon box by box.	Students will improve their drawing skills by drawing the human figure. Volunteer students pose on the center table and the remaining students will draw what they see. They will also study shadow, line, draperies, and facial structures.
Unit 2	Students will build three-dimensional masks out of paper mache. They will use wet newsprint to form mounds where needed to represent their character's facial features.	Students will sculpt a block of plaster into a miniature abstract "modern art" piece using a variety of tools such as chisels, mallets, rasps, and sandpaper.	Students will learn composition for both photography and painting. This is based on the "the rule of thirds" that explains proper layout. Students will then find a photo that they like and set it up so that it follows the rule.
Unit 3	Students will make a three frame cartoon or story and build a ribbed platform for it to be glued to. The ribbed platform allows the pictures in the story to change as one walks by. Students will have to consider how their characters' movements will be seen.	Students will explore oil paint to make self portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso's Cubism. In this style, multiple perspectives are all seen at the same time.	Students will learn about business and customer relationships through the mural painting unit. Students will layout a famous quote on a paper template and then draw it on to the wall. Students will have to run everything by me like in a real business situation.
Unit 4	Students will recreate their own mobile based on the famous sculptor Alexander Calder. Students will work in groups and make a blueprint. They must control both balance and gravity to match their vision.	Students will learn the ways of the native Americans through the building of clay pottery using the coil method. Students will make a base and stack coils until the desired height is reached. The clay will be fired and glazed at which point they will have a functional piece.	Students will paint a brick in the hallway near the gym. Students are encouraged to draw or write anything that they feel represents them in the space provided.
Unit 5			Students will be challenged with the "paint the music" unit. Students will choose a song and paint an abstract representation of the sounds in oil paint on canvas. In this unit we will explore the meaning and emotions that are associated with various color.