

# Foundations In VAD Syllabus

## School of Creative and Performing Arts

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### Course Description:

Foundations in Visual Arts and Design is a one-year course that teaches the elements of art and principles of design in the context of new media and entertainment. This Foundations course is designed to show students how investing in their own artistic development can open avenues for lifelong learning and professional success. Through project-based assignments, portfolio development, and reflections, students continually return to their own vision, expanding their capacity to “see” as both creators and critical consumers of art and media.

### Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Apply elements and principles of design to create art
- Use art vocabulary to discuss and write about art
- Illustrate, render, and create art subjects in a well-executed manner
- Demonstrate applicable skills to create different works of art in a variety of mediums
- Identify various career opportunities in art
- Demonstrate knowledge of different skills such as lettering, color, design, drawing, layout, and craftsmanship
- Study the history of art and its influence on today’s creations

Through art, students will gain a deeper understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them.

**Supplies:** Basic art supplies will be provided, however, the care and quality of the supplies cannot be guaranteed. Therefore, it is recommended and students are encouraged to bring their own supplies whenever possible.

**Required Text:** While there is no required text for this class, we will be using two art textbooks throughout the year to support the projects, curriculum standards and literacy component. These books are available in the classroom as class sets. Aside from these, students are strongly encouraged to use other reference materials in the classroom, the library, magazines, and the web.

### Grading Policy and Procedures

Letter Grade	Grade Percentage	Level of Mastery
A	90-100%	Advanced
B	80-89.9%	Proficient
C	70-79.9%	Basic
D	60-69.9%	Below Basic
F	<59.9%	Far Below Basic

Classwork, Quizzes, Homework, Activities	40%
Final projects, Tests	60%

Projects, etc., are graded based on the following criteria:

- Directions were followed and Objectives were met
- Craftsmanship is neat and clean
- Ideas are original and creative
- Honest effort is shown

### **Citizenship:**

Students must come to class on time every day. **On time means that you are in your seat when the bell rings.** Tardiness will affect their citizenship grade. If you are tardy 3 or more times in a single six-week period, your citizenship will automatically drop to an N. If you are tardy 6 or more times in a single six-week period, your citizenship grade will drop to a U.

Student improvement and effort, classroom behavior, and attendance will determine final citizenship grades.

### **Rules & Expectations:**

All school rules apply. Classroom rules and procedures will be established and explained during the first week of class. Basic rules that apply to every class are:

- Be respectful of the teacher, your classmates, and the classroom
- Be on time and prepared for class every day and in your seat when the bell rings
- Be responsible for your actions; no electronic devices; no food, gum, or drink (unless it is bottled water with the cap on)
- Be productive and creative!

### **Homework:**

- Completion of any class work that was not finished at school to meet grading deadlines
- Review of project materials/notes and vocabulary
- Sketchbook assignments
- Collection of imagery and/or brainstorming for projects

**Makeup Work Policy:** Students are responsible for arranging completion of makeup work the day of returning from absences. Appropriate time will be given depending on circumstances. ALL makeup work is due at the end of the grading period. Makeup work must be done at home, during lunch or after school.

Late work will automatically receive a lower grade if it has not been excused.

## **Course Outline**

This course will follow and align with The California State Visual Arts Standards. Each Unit and project will incorporate several of the standards within it.

The California State Visual Arts Standards are

- **1.0- Artistic Perception:** Processing, analyzing, and responding to sensory information through the language and skills unique to the Visual Arts
- **2.0 - Creative Expression:** Creating, performing, and participating in the Visual Arts
- **3.0 - Historical and Cultural Context:** Understanding the historical contributions and cultural dimensions of the Visual Arts
- **4.0- Aesthetic Valuing:** Responding to, analyzing, and making judgments about works in the Visual Arts
- **5.0- Connections, Relationships, Applications:** Connecting and applying what is learned in the Visual Arts to other forms and subject areas and to careers

Selected works of art (prints and digital media) will be used throughout the course to illustrate master artists', use of elements and principles of design, media, techniques, and artistic concepts and conventions to be used by students during the course.

## **Fall Semester**

- **Unit 1: Getting to Know You**

- **Unit 2: Saying It with Symbols**
- **Unit 3: Community Storytelling**
  - Related Integrated Units:
    - The Path to World War II (World History)
    - Everyone Has a Story (ELA)
- **Unit 4: Make Me a World**
  - Related Integrated Units:
    - Light! Color! Perception! (Biology)
    - Settings from Page to Screen (ELA)
    - Conveying Reality: Similarity and Proportion (Algebra 1, Geometry)

## **Spring Semester**

- **Unit 5: Creating Characters**
  - Related Integrated Units:
    - Casting a Novel Character (ELA)
    - Transforming Figures (Geometry)
    - Animating Labor History (U.S. History)
- **Unit 6: Games for Good**
  - Related Integrated Units:
    - The Power of the Nucleus (Chemistry)
    - Cold War Games (World History)
- **Unit 7: Art Show!**
  - Related Integrated Units:
    - Linear Programming: Optimizing Media Reach (Algebra 1)
    - Going Public (ELA)

### **Critiques & Aesthetic Valuing**

Discuss, ask questions, and write essays about works of art including one's own works and that of others.

### **Final Portfolio & Project Review**

**\* All projects and the order of the units are subject to change.**

*“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he/she grows up.” –  
Pablo Picasso*