



ART CLASS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am so happy to welcome your child to 7th or 8th grade art at Lewis & Clark Middle School! I sincerely hope this semester is a challenging and rewarding experience for your student. The purpose of my art course is for students to gain an understanding of visual art by creating artworks using the elements of line, shape, form, texture, space, value, and color in a variety of techniques and media. I encourage students to think creatively and problem solve in and outside of my classroom, become more proficient in communicating through visual self-expression, and to comprehend the world as art links us to other cultures and other times.

Expectations & Grading

Grading art is a difficult, but incredibly important task. The artistic process is equally important as the final product and I consider both when grading a child's artwork. Grades in my art classes are based on two factors: the **overall project grade** and **individual weekly points**.

Overall Project Grades:

When a new art project is introduced, students are made aware of the specific criteria that I will be looking for in the completed project. When the project is complete, I use the following point system to grade each individual piece of artwork.

- 50 points will be based on completion (handing it in and having it finished on time)
- 40 points will be based on the specific criteria for the project (understanding and demonstrating the art concepts we have covered in class)
- 10 points will be based on the neatness and thoughtfulness of the project (time and effort put forth during class work time)

Individual Weekly Points:

Because some art projects may take up to two weeks to complete, weekly participation points are a huge factor in your child's grade. Each student begins the period with 4 points. It is their goal to end the hour with 4 points, adding up to 20 points per week. Students will receive one verbal warning before losing a point. The 2nd verbal warning results in a point lost, and the 3rd verbal warning results in another point deducted, as well as a behavior worksheet that will be sent home to be reviewed and signed by a parent or guardian. Points are based on the following:

1. Using class time wisely (not chatting constantly or wasting work time)
2. "Every material is a tool and not a toy" (art materials are used properly, in the way they are intended to be used)
3. Treating fellow artists with respect
4. Treating me with respect

Classroom Points & Music Days

Every art class will work together to enter the room quietly each day, listen during demonstrations, stay on task, respect myself and others, and clean up at the end of the hour. When a class earns 30 points for these tasks, they will be allowed to bring an ipod, or other hand held listening device (with earbuds) to art for one class period. Students will not be able to listen to these devices during other classes - only in my art room on the designated day. Bringing a listening device is not mandatory; it is up to the parents to decide whether one can be brought to school. If a student brings an ipod during our music day, it is their responsibility to keep it safe in their lockers when they are not using it in my classroom and it is not the school's responsibility if it is lost, stolen, or broken. Unfortunately, listening devices will not be provided if they are forgotten at home or if a student does not own one, however students can share ear buds and I will also play music for the entire class to enjoy. If the listening device is used inappropriately that student will not be allowed to use the device for the rest of the year in my class. Listening to music while producing artwork can be a very relaxing and inspiring experience! If you have any questions or concerns about this reward system, please let me know.

Supplies

Art supplies are provided in class, but the following items could always come in handy if your child would like to bring one of their own.

- #2 Pencils (this is the only item required to bring to class every day!)
- A set of colored pencils
- An old t-shirt to wear when we paint or work with clay (I can store these at school if your child brings one)
- a large eraser
- a small hand held pencil sharpener

Recycled materials are always welcome in our art classroom; if you would like to donate or recycle any of the following, please send them my way!

Magazines, large images of animals, landscapes, cars, etc. (calendars work great for this) empty jars, empty plastic yogurt tubs, extra t-shirts, fake flowers, paint swatches, etc.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

I can be reached at:

wardript@billingssschools.org

Thank you, I am looking forward to a fantastic semester!

Sincerely,

Tori Wardrip