

Arts Track: Course Information and Grading Policy

Course Description:

The Terramar Visual Arts Track is designed for students who have a passion for art and creative expression. This semester-long course offers students the opportunity to further their understanding and appreciation of the visual arts as well as foster talent and creativity. Students are exposed to a wide variety of media, techniques and processes and are given multiple opportunities for further exploration. While drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and ceramics are the main areas of concentration, other art forms will be explored as well. In addition to art production, students will engage in activities relating to art appreciation, aesthetics and art criticism. Students who are successful in this program are those who are highly motivated and can work independently in an “open studio” setting.

Grading:

Two separate grades will be given in Art: an individual achievement grade and a citizenship grade.

The following grading scale will be used for achievement:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
50-59	F

Achievement

Two categories make up the achievement grade. These categories are weighted equally.

Art projects, quizzes, tests, sketchbook assignments: 50%

Students will complete approximately 18 projects during the semester. Projects and criteria are tied to the National and Arizona Visual Arts Standards.

Note: I will not give a grade lower than 50% on any art project. My rationale for this policy is that I feel it is too difficult to recover from a zero when there are only a limited number of projects in the quarter. However, if a student chooses to simply not do an assignment a zero will be given.

Daily Participation: 50%

Students should be working on something at all times during art class. Those who finish early should be working in their sketchbooks or working on an ongoing independent project. **Students who spend class time socializing will lose participation points.**

Citizenship

The following grading scale will be used for citizenship grades:

E	Exceeds the standards
S	Standards met
N	Needs improvement
U	Unsatisfactory

All middle school art students start with an “S” in citizenship. Grades will be adjusted up or down depending on each student’s behavior and attitude.

Additional Information

Materials Needed:

All students are asked to bring to each class one fine point black Sharpie marker and one ultra-fine point black Sharpie or black Sharpie Pen. Arts Track students are asked to bring a sketchbook to each class. Sketchbooks can be found at stores such as Michael’s, JoAnn’s, and Hobby Lobby. You can generally print a 40% off coupon from the Hobby Lobby website or pull it up on your phone for scanning at check out. These items are due by Friday of the first week of class. If you are unable to provide these items for your child, please email me at tracy_grace@dvusd.org.

Absences:

Students are expected to make up work missed in class. Students are welcome to **make arrangements** with me to come in before or after school as well as lunch recess. Special arrangements can be made to check out materials if needed. Students missing several days in a row may be excused from a project.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit can be earned to bring up a grade. Students must come up with their own idea and present it to me beforehand. Students interested in earning extra credit should see me no later than 2 weeks before the end of the quarter.

Portfolio:

Each student will create a portfolio of work that will reflect artistic growth and mastery. Students will bring home completed artwork at the end of the semester. One piece or more may be selected to exhibit in the spring art show.

Assessment:

Criteria for each project will be posted in the art room or on a handout. A rubric will be used to assess criteria met, effort, effective use of class time and craftsmanship. Rubrics are provided to clarify project expectations. Students are required to participate in the assessment of their work. A sample of the art rubric is posted on my website.



I have read through the Art Grading Policy and understand the requirements. Please sign and date this portion and return to school by _____. **This is a 25 point assignment.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Does your child have access to a home computer, Internet and printer? Please circle:

Yes No