3rd Grade American Online School

ART CURRICULUM

Creating, Expressing, and Understanding the World Through Art

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Art Education in 3rd Grade

The 3rd Grade Art curriculum empowers students to explore visual expression, develop fine motor skills, and begin making meaning through shape, color, and form. Students work with various media to build artistic techniques, engage in art history, and express personal stories through drawing, collage, and mixed media projects. Emphasis is placed on creativity, craftsmanship, and connecting art to nature, animals, and imagination.

By the end of this course, students will:

✔ **Use drawing, collage, and painting techniques to express ideas visually.**

✔ **Apply foundational knowledge of color theory and composition.**

✔ **Recognize and reflect on works of historical and contemporary art.**

✔ **Create original artworks inspired by nature, animals, and architecture.**

✔ **Present and discuss their own and others' artwork with confidence.**

---

2. Core Competence Areas

ART.1 Drawing and Design

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

✔ **Use lines, shapes, textures, and shading techniques in original drawings.**

✔ **Represent animals, landscapes, and imaginative scenes with clarity and detail.**

✔ **Use sketching as a planning and storytelling tool.**

Competencies

ART.1.A.1 – Exploring drawing as a storytelling medium.

- Draw scenes from stories or dreams using pencil, marker, or crayon.
- Use contour and gesture drawing to capture movement.

ART.1.A.2 – Creating realistic and abstract animal portraits.

- Study features of lynx and wolves; combine observation and imagination.
- Experiment with mixed textures to depict fur and habitat.

ART.2 Collage and Composition

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Combine images, shapes, and textures to communicate ideas.**

✔ **Arrange elements using balance, symmetry, and layering techniques.**

✔ **Reuse and repurpose materials in creative ways.**

Competencies

ART.2.A.1 – Building collages with intention and creativity.

- Use scissors, glue, and magazine clippings to tell a visual story.
- Create a nature-inspired or emotion-based collage.

ART.2.A.2 – Integrating collage with drawing and painting.

- Overlay paint and texture on top of a paper collage base.
- Compose a "Short Ones" project using small, repeated visual elements.

ART.3 Color Theory and Painting

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✓ **Identify primary, secondary, warm, and cool colors.**

✓ **Mix colors and use them to express mood and contrast.**

✓ **Paint with control, blending, and texture.**

Competencies

ART.3.A.1 – Learning how colors relate and interact.

- Create a color wheel and mood-based color map.
- Explore tints and shades by mixing with black and white.

ART.3.A.2 – Painting expressive environments.

- Design imaginary treehouses using warm/cool color contrast.
- Use watercolor or tempera for atmospheric effects.

ART.4 Art History and Cultural Connections

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✓ **Recognize selected works and artists from different cultures and time periods.**

✓ **Use art history as inspiration for original work.**

✓ **Reflect on the purpose and message behind artworks.**

Competencies

ART.4.A.1 – Studying famous artworks and movements.

- Learn about Matisse, Van Gogh, Kusama, and Indigenous art forms.
- Recreate stylistic elements and techniques in their own way.

ART.4.A.2 – Making connections between past and present.

- Compare ancient and modern treehouse designs.
- Use art to explore themes of nature, shelter, and creativity.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Artistic Process and Technique

✔ Sketchbook entries and project planning pages.

✔ Guided practice and peer feedback.

✔ Reflection journals with drawings.

Summative Assessments – Final Artworks and Portfolios

✔ Lynx & Wolf mixed media piece.

✔ Color Mood Painting with self-assessment.

✔ Treehouse scene with rubric-based critique.

Authentic Assessment – Creative Expression and Curation

✔ "My Art Museum" display with curated works and labels.

✔ Oral or video artist statement for a favorite project.

✔ Collaborative wall mural or gallery walk.

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Hands-On Exploration and Process Focus
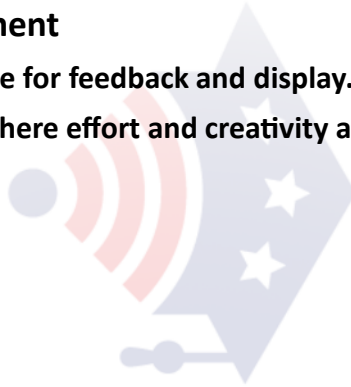
✔ Encourage experimentation with tools, textures, and techniques.

✔ Use artist routines: warm-ups, planning, making, revising, sharing.

Cultural and Environmental Integration

✔ **Study global art traditions and connect to social studies and geography.**

✔ **Use natural materials and found objects for eco-conscious projects.**

Reflective Learning Environment

✔ **Foster a classroom gallery space for feedback and display.**

✔ **Create a judgment-free zone where effort and creativity are celebrated.**