9th Grade American Online School

ART CURRICULUM

Exploring Identity, Space, and Form Through Visual Language and Artistic Creation

Version Apr/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of Art Education in 9th Grade

In 9th grade, students explore visual art as a language of self-expression, cultural inquiry, and creative problem-solving. The curriculum blends foundational skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and mixed media with critical understanding of artistic traditions, movements, and contemporary issues. Students will engage in observational practice, creative thinking, and iterative production to build confidence and competence as emerging artists.

By the end of this course, students will:

✓ **Understand and apply the elements and principles of art and design.**

✓ **Develop technical skills across a variety of traditional and contemporary media.**

✓ **Analyze and interpret artworks from historical and cultural perspectives.**

✓ **Express personal identity, ideas, and emotions through visual media.**

✓ **Engage in critique, reflection, and revision to refine artistic voice.**

2. Core Competence Areas

ART.1 Elements and Principles of Art

Learning Outcomes

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

✓ **Apply elements such as line, shape, and color to convey meaning.**

✓ **Use principles like balance and contrast to structure compositions.**

✓ **Create depth and perspective in two-dimensional work.**

Competencies

ART.1.A.1 – Mastering Art Elements.

- Recognize and incorporate fundamental elements (line, shape, color, texture, value, space, form).

ART.1.A.2 – Applying Design Principles.

- Examine global artistic traditions, including African, Asian, Indigenous, and Latin American art.

ART.1.A.3 – Creating Spatial Illusions.

- Demonstrate perspective through vanishing points, scaling, and overlapping.

ART.2 Techniques, Media, and Craftmanship

Learning Outcomes

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

✓ **Use various art materials and tools with skill and safety.**

✓ **Demonstrate control in techniques like shading, painting, and sculpting.**

✓ **Understand how media choice influences expression and meaning.**

Competencies

ART.2.A.1 – Using media and tools safely.

- Employ tools for drawing, painting, sculpting, and collage with appropriate techniques.

ART.2.A.2 – Demonstrating technique mastery.

- Produce work using shading, blending, color mixing, and brushwork.

ART.2.A.3 – Exploring media expressiveness.

- Experiment with materials to explore texture, symbolism, and emotional tone.

ART.2.A.4 – Refining artistic work.

- Revise artworks through feedback, sketching, and self-assessment.

ART.3 Art History and Cultural Context

Learning Outcomes

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

✓ **Identify major art movements and influential artists.**

✓ **Analyze how artworks reflect cultural and historical values.**

✓ **Integrate stylistic influences into personal creations.**

Competencies

ART.3.A.1 – Learning key movements and artists.

- Describe major contributions of artists like Da Vinci, Rodin, Kahlo, Basquiat.

ART.3.A.2 – Connecting art to society.

- Interpret how art reflects political, spiritual, or social themes.

ART.3.A.3 – Comparing cultural styles.

- Contrast artistic styles and symbolism across regions and time periods.

ART.3.A.4 – Creating historically inspired works.

- Apply historical styles in original pieces with contemporary or personal meaning.

ART.4 Artistic Process and Creative Thinking

Learning Outcomes

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

✓ **Develop themes and ideas through brainstorming and research.**

✓ **Align artistic choices with expressive intent.**

✓ **Reflect on process and product to grow as a creator.**

Competencies

ART.4.A.1 – Generating creative ideas.

- Use journaling, sketches, and brainstorming to develop concepts.

ART.4.A.2 – Aligning form and message.

- Select materials and techniques that support expressive goals.

ART.4.A.4 – Reflecting on artistic growth.

- Evaluate progress and outcomes through documentation and critique.

ART.4.A.5 – Building visual identity.

- Establish consistent themes, styles, or symbols in personal art.

ART.5 Critique, Communication, and Visual Literacy

Learning Outcomes

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

✓ **Use visual language to describe and analyze artworks.**

✓ **Interpret meaning and symbolism in visual media.**

✓ **Communicate clearly through written and spoken artist statements.**

Competencies

ART.4.A.1 – Practicing visual analysis.

- Discuss artworks using appropriate vocabulary and formal texts.

ART.4.A.2 – Interpreting artistic meaning.

- Decode metaphor, mood, and message in art across contexts.

ART.4.A.3 – Participating in critique.

- Provide and receive critique with empathy and specificity.

ART.4.A.4 – Articulating creative intentions.

- Exploring personal work through artist statements or presentation.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Checking Progress Through Interactive Learning

✔ **Sketchbook reviews and idea development activities**
✔ **In-process feedback and technical demonstrations**
✔ **Journals and media exploration tasks**

Summative Assessments – Final Projects and Exams

✔ **Mid-year project on formal principles and technique**
✔ **Final thematic work with artist statement**
✔ **Visual literacy and art history quizzes**

Authentic Assessment – Real-World Applications

✔ **Curated student portfolio with artist commentary**
✔ **Exhibition participation (physical or virtual)**
✔ **Peer-led critiques and group reflections**

4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Problem-Based Learning

✔ Structured experimentation with tools, media, and methods.

✔ Emphasis on creative risk-taking and visual journaling.

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

✔ Emphasize idea development and revision cycles.

✔ Scaffold personal projects from concept to exhibition.

Technology-Integrated Learning

✔ Use of digital art tools like Procreate, Adobe Photoshop, or Canva.

✔ Virtual museum tours and interactive art history lessons.

✔ AI-powered art critique tools to improve technique.