**Class Syllabus**

Class: ***Art Foundations***

Instructor: Elena Fernandez

School: Warren-Mott High School

**Course Description**

Art Foundations is a required course for all other art courses. Students will develop the fundamental skills needed for a solid foundation in the visual arts. The elements and principles of design will be introduced through the exciting exploration of various 2-D media and techniques. Composition, observation, and rendering skills will be emphasized. The structure of the class will consist of guided exercises, class projects, artist videos, group discussion, and critiques. Drawing skills will be developed through guided exercises taken from Betty Edwards’s book Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain.

**Guidelines for success**

* Leave your fear at the door! To develop as an artist, one must push themselves to experiment, try new techniques and be an artistic risk taker. Every artist, without exception makes art that they’re dissatisfied with. As long as you’ve learned in the process, you’re successful.
* Work hard and practice. It sounds simple but some seem to think that artists are born as opposed to developed. Acquiring art skills are like any other discipline, it takes practice, practice and more practice.
* Any student can be successful in this course. In order to be successful, student’s need to follow directions, show a sincere effort in participation and execution of class projects and turn in all assignment in on time.
* This course can be a very rewarding experience with the opportunity to acquire a deeper understanding of 2-D design and skill development. Your level of development is a direct result of the time and effort you invest in this course.

**Classroom Procedures**

* Come prepared to class with a **wooden** pencil and eraser. Because mechanical pencils have a fine lead, they are not appropriate for the type of work we will do in class. I will have pencils available for purchase at **.25₵** each.
* Arrive to class on time every time. School tardy policy: 1st Tardy= Warning, 2nd Tardy= Call home, 3rd Tardy = Detention, 4th Tardy= Referral.
* If I find it necessary to confiscate a cell phone, I will take the entire phone including **the battery and memory card.**
* Each day will begin with a sketchbook or art related assignment. Students are to get their sketchbooks out and begin work upon entering class and before the tardy bell. You will have the first 10 minutes of the class period to work on the assignment.
* Daily assignments will be posted on the white board.
* Projects will be turned in at the deadline after class critique and students fill out self assessments.
* Generally, your work will be returned after grading. However, it is common practice to display some pieces in the hallway. You will be informed if your piece is selected.
* You are responsible for tracking your own grade status. I strongly encourage you to check your parent portal on a regular basis.
* Students are expected to remain in their seats until the bell has rung for class passing.

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**\*Course Fee**

This class requires all students to pay a $10.00 supply fee. The course fee is used to purchase paper and supplies to be used by students. Fee will be paid directly to your instructor in cash or money order by Monday, September 22. You will be given a receipt at the time the fee is paid.

**Suggested Art Supplies**

* Set of 12 graphic/sketching pencils
* Kneaded eraser

**Classroom Rules**

Students in are expected to adhere to the following requirements:

* Be in the classroom ready to work when the tardy bell rings
* Come to class prepared with a pencil and eraser
* Be respectful to others, the classroom and art supplies
* Complete all assignments by the deadline or 2 weeks prior to card marking
* Be respectful of the thoughts, opinions, works and belongings of others
* Maintain a studio conduct that will positively affect the learning environment of your classmates, your teacher and yourself.
* Physical movement within the classroom and use of classroom tools should reflect an awareness of safety and a sense of respect of the studio environment.
* No food or drink in class
* **You are responsible for cleaning up after yourself, including all materials used in the artistic process.**

**Consequences for Classroom Rule Violations**

1. Discussion with student regarding rule infraction or behavior issue
2. Telephone call to parent
3. Detention to be served in my classroom during lunch
4. Referral to house office assistant principal

**Productive Use of Time**

Students are to work on art projects from the beginning of the hour until the last five minutes of class and then clean up. Although open communication regarding the artistic process is encouraged, general chattiness is not an effective use of classroom time and thus, discouraged.

If students use their class time productively and do not have excessive absences or tardies, all assignments can be completed during the allotted class time. I am aware that as individuals, we all work at a different pace so if extra time is necessary, students should contact me prior to the due date to make arrangements for turning work in late.

**Absence Policy**

It will be your responsibility to find out from your instructor what work you missed while absent. If you missed a reading and/or writing assignment, make sure you approach me for the appropriate materials.

**Grading Policy**

I do not grade comparatively, so comparing your grade to another student’s is not valid. I grade according to what I believe your capabilities to be as well as improvement throughout the semester. I also take into consideration your work habits as well as your problem solving skills.

I will collect evidence of your learning in as many ways as I can. With the exception of the final exam, your grade will not be determined by quiz or test scores. Instead, I will evaluate you using these tools:

* observations
* daily work and long-term projects (both the process and the product)
* your own self-assessments
* project rubrics

I’m looking for and at:

* demonstrated comprehension of art skills and terms
* process (contribution to the classroom community, risk taking, idea development,
* creativity, and problem-solving)
* technical craftsmanship in resulting projects

Student work will consist of exercises and projects. Exercises are designed as an introduction and practice for a specific technique. Exercises are primarily done in class and are assessed for student understanding of concept. Projects are an in-depth investigation of a concept and technique. These are done in class and generally take a longer period of time.

Homework and daily/in class work may account for up to 25% of the final grade. The remaining 75% of the final grade is to be based on fair and equitable assessments that will permit students to demonstrate his/her mastery level of the course’s content including projects and quizzes.

If you disagree with a grade you receive we can discuss it before or after class. If your arguments are valid, we can work out a solution.

Work is due promptly at the deadline. Deadline dates will be posted on the chalkboard during the entirety of the project. Because artists work more slowly I do not deduct points for work turned in late. However once the deadline has passed, the class will move on as a group to the next project/concept. You will not be allowed to use class time to work on past projects. You are responsible for making arrangements with your instructor if you need to use the classroom to work on past-due projects. Keep in mind that **NO** late work will be accepted 2 weeks prior to the end of the semester grading cycle.

**Studio Points**: Students will earn weekly studio points based upon their studio involvement and conduct. Most weeks will present the opportunity students to earn 15 point (3 per day). Points are as follows:

***Attendance:*** 1 pt per day. Points will be subtracted for tardy arrival without a pass or an unexcused absence.

***Studio Conduct:*** 1 point per day. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards myself, one another and the studio supplies and process.

***Effort:*** One point per day. The best way to become a better and skilled artist is through your own efforts. Heads down, napping and general lollygagging will result in points lost.

I use the letter grading scale as outlined by WCS.

**Communication**

Communication between all involved parties is crucial to your success. I encourage an open dialogue between you, your parents and myself. There are a number of ways that I use to communicate to you and your parents. Please feel free to contact me for any reason regarding our class. You may contact me via email through the school website [Efernandez@wcskids.net](mailto:Efernandez@wcskids.net) or at (586)574-3250 ext. 13131. Email is the most efficient way to communicate with me since I am unable to answer phone calls during instructional time. Please provide me with a day time phone number where I can reach you if a conversation regarding student performance, behavior or attendance is necessary.

I have also created and account on ***Remind 101***. There are a couple of ways you can sign up to receive messages. You can download the Remind 101 app from Google Play or the Apple App store. Once you’ve downloaded the app, enter my class code: @6ea79. Or you can send a text message to the phone number: 616 723-9034 and enter the code in the text message box. This will allow me to communicate general messages to the entire class. It also is a great way to keep parents in the loop.

My weekly lesson plans can be found on my website: <http://eafernandez.weebly.com>

**Art Foundations**  - Ms. Fernandez

I acknowledge that I have read and understand Drawing and Painting course syllabus. Due Fri 9/ 12 for **10 bonus pts.**

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Student Name ~ Printed

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Student signature

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Parent name ~ printed

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Parent signature

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Parent day time phone number