

**LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL
INTRO TO ART A - FALL SEMESTER, MS. ASPENSEN
COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABUS 2023-2024**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Intro to Art

Grade Level:	9-12
Prerequisite(s):	None
Length:	1 Semester
Credit:	.5 credits each semester
Requirement Fulfilled:	Fine Arts

Content:

A course in two parts designed for the beginning art student. First semester, students are introduced to:

- the elements of art
- the principles of design
- basic drawing techniques and process
- a variety of 2D media and processes
- art history and criticism
- visual journaling

Expectations for ALL students:

- Be on time and follow directions
 - **Put your cell phone in the "Cell Phone Motel" and leave it there for the duration of class.** No exceptions! Students who refuse to put their cell phone in the cell phone motel will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Cell phones will remain in the cell phone motel when students use a pass to go to any other part of the school during class time, [as per the student handbook](#). (p. 29, item #7)
 - Handle all art supplies with care
 - Respect everyone and his/her art work
 - Keep your work area clean
 - Use class time to work on projects
 - Complete projects in a timely manner
 - Check Google Classroom DAILY for updated assignments and messages from your teacher
 - Check your school email DAILY for updated assignments and messages from your teacher.
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ALL students are expected to READ, FOLLOW, and ADHERE to ALL rules and expectations set forth in the student handbook and this syllabus! Absolutely NO exceptions! It is the responsibility of every parent and student to read, know, and understand what is in the student handbook and this syllabus.

Skills Taught:

- How to create art using a variety of media and techniques
- How to understand and communicate how the elements of design and principles of art are used in works of art

- How to create unique individual artworks to express feelings, ideas, and create mood
- How to analyze artwork in terms of content, composition and meaning
- How to analyze and critique personal artwork and the artwork of others, including professionals, viewed through field trips, visual aides and the Internet
- The safe and proper use of equipment, supplies and materials
- Critical thinking
- Respect for self and others
- Study and note-taking skills

Methods of Presentation:

The majority of the class time is used for creating various works of art using the media and techniques presented in class. Some class time is spent viewing and discussing the artwork of other artists (through slides, videos and other visuals as well as visits to exhibits and museums). Students may be asked to participate in at least one showing of their work each semester and compete in at least one contest during the school year. The student is also expected to learn the terminology related to the methods and media covered.

Format and Flow of Each Class Period:

- **Art History and Criticism:** First 5-10 minutes (Daily Bell Ringer)
- **Creating art projects and/or Presentations/Student Art Critiques:** Middle 67 minutes
- **Clean up:** Final 5-10 minutes

The projects we will be working on this semester:

- Make a handmade, bound, sketchbook:** Students will make their own visual journals in which they will complete the daily visual journal assignments, **which is a study guide for their final exam—the final exam is an open book exam in which the only book allowed is the visual journal that they have made.** Students learn to discuss art using the critical method of looking at and discussing art (art criticism), which they also use to discuss their own work, and also to learn about the great works of art from throughout history and the contemporary era.

Unit 1: Elements of Art & Principles of Design:

- Make a Color Wheel** - Students will make a color wheel using watercolor paint to learn the basics of color theory and color mixing. (Elements of Art: Color, value; Principles of Design: balance, radial symmetry)
- Roll a Picasso** - Students will play a dice game that guides them through a happenstance portrait in the style of Picasso. (Elements of Art: line, shape, composition; Principles of Design: emphasis, unity, variety)
- ZenDoodle Self-Portrait:** Students will learn how to create different types of lines to create visual texture. Then students will use all the various types of lines to create a self portrait from their school photo. (Elements of Art: line, shape, texture; Principles of Design: unity, variety, movement)
- Tessellation:** Students will make a tessellated design that demonstrates strong use of positive and negative space. (Elements of art: shape, value, contrast; Principles of design: rhythm, balance, emphasis)

- Sugar Skull: Students will make a sugar skull drawing of their own original design in the tradition of Dia de los Muertos. (Elements of art: line, shape, color; Principles of design: unity, variety, emphasis)
- Two-Point Perspective Fantasy City: Students will create a city in two-point perspective on a fantasy theme of their choice. (Elements of art: line, space; Principles of design: composition, proportion, balance)
- Radial Balance and Design - Celtic Knot: Students will create an original Celtic Knot design. (Elements of art: line, shape; Principles of design: balance/radial symmetry)
- Color and Landscape - Foreground/Middleground/Background: Students will make a landscape drawing that represents foreground, middleground, background and demonstrates the illusion of depth and distance, using a photo reference and colored pencils. (Elements of art: space; Principles of design: proportion, balance, movement, emphasis)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perceive, interpret, and respond to ideas, experiences, and the environment through visual art.
2. Demonstrate understanding of visual art as a basic aspect of history and human experience.
3. Demonstrate the ability to organize knowledge and ideas for expression in the production of art.
4. Demonstrate the ability to identify, analyze, and apply criteria for making visual aesthetic judgments.

GRADING POLICY

In accordance with the grading standards adopted by Laurel High School, and the Montana Content Standards for the Arts, the grading scale of this course will be as follows:

Daily Art Critique	25%
Attendance/Participation/Citizenship	25%
Visual Journal	25%
Projects / Studio Work	25%

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is imperative that you attend class in order to receive all of the material delivered in the class, for maximum participation, and to get all of the assistance you will need to be successful. If you are absent from the classroom you will lose points toward your Attendance/Participation/Citizenship (ATP) grade. If you are tardy or disruptive you will also lose points. You receive 25 points each day just for showing up to class and shining sunbeams out of your face.

You will lose points as follows if you are absent, tardy, or disruptive:

Points Deducted	Points Received out of 25 Possible	Absence Code in Infinite Campus
25	0	A = Absent with NO phone call from parent.

12.5	12.5	AB = Absent with a parent phone call, but not an exempt absence.
0	25	AX = Absent exempt, student has a Dr's note, family funeral, DMV.
25	0	AUX = Unexcused
0	25	SRA= School related activity
0	25	SRI = School related in building
6.5	17.5	T= Tardy
25	0	HOSS = High School Out of School Suspension
25	0	HISS = High School In School Suspension
0	25	TX = Tardy Exempt

Absence points for any of the above reasons can be earned back by doing extra visual journal assignments (one page for AB or T, or two pages for A or AU.)

You may also lose points for disruptive behavior that interferes with the right of other students to enjoy a peaceful learning environment and classroom experience. Additionally, students violating safety protocols for handling art supplies and equipment that are designed to keep them and their classmates safe will also lose points in the ATP category: Points for such infractions will be deducted as follows:

Points Deducted	Points Received out of 10 Possible	There is no attendance code for these in Infinite Campus, but students losing points for this infraction will also receive a Behavior Referral, which will be logged in Infinite Campus.
25	0	Disruptive classroom behavior interfering with the right of other students to enjoy a peaceful educational experience
25	0	Unsafe behavior and/or unsafe handling of art supplies and equipment.

Students may NOT earn points back if points are lost for disruptive or unsafe behavior.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Participation in art projects is a privilege and requires maturity and the ability to focus and follow directions. In Intro to Art, we will use a variety of materials that can stain clothing. If a student is concerned about material accidents (such as spilling paint) and staining his/her clothing, I provide aprons that the students can wear over their clothes while in the art room. It is the students' responsibility to avail themselves of this benefit.

During class, it is essential that each student follows all instructions and procedures carefully. Some projects will require the use of tools that when misused, can cause injury. Only students who exhibit responsible behavior will be permitted to use such tools. Students not demonstrating such responsible behavior must complete an alternate assignment or earn a failing grade on the project.

Any dangerous or threatening behavior with such tools will result in a behavior referral in Infinite Campus and the associated consequences as outlined in the [student handbook](#).

HOMEWORK & CLASSWORK EXPECTATIONS

The Visual Journal Assignments are considered homework, although there is frequently time built into class for students to work on these, IF they make wise use of their class time. The Art Critiques are the daily Bell Ringer. Studio Work is the projects we make.

Visual Journal Assignments (Homework) can be assigned 3 to 5 days per week and are turned in by the end of the school day on Fridays. The Visual Journal assignments (Homework) are daily drawings of the artwork in the Art History & Criticism assignments. Students are expected to do Visual Journal Assignments outside of class time if they are not able to complete them during class time. As stated previously, there is frequently time built into class for students to work on these, IF they make wise use of their class time. These are very simple little assignments that should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. If a student comes to the end of a Studio Work assignment and completes it before the due date, they may use class time to work on their Visual Journal Assignments. Students may NOT defer work on Studio Work (Art Projects) to work on Visual Journal assignments and are expected to make wise use of class time.

The Art Critique assignments (Daily Bell Ringer) are very short Google Form questionnaires or Jamboards about specific artworks that we complete together at the very beginning of class.

Studio Work (art projects) will take place during class time. Students are responsible for managing designated class time to complete art projects on time. Deadlines and expectations will be clearly outlined at the beginning of every art project. Any excused absence on work days can be made up during STEAM (with a pass) or after school. In some cases, the art project can be taken home to be completed, depending on whether the student will have the materials necessary to work on the project at home. Students who use class time wisely, who behave responsibly and respectfully and want to continue to work on their art project in their free time are welcome in the art room during STEAM or after school.

Students will be given rubrics that show how every assignment is graded and outlines clear expectations for performance on each assignment.

Assignments are not turned in until posted to the Google Classroom. There are instructions in the Google Classroom for how to submit assignments to Google Classroom and we will go over that in class at the beginning of the semester.

MASTERY RE-DO POLICY

Students may be asked to “re-do” certain work, at the teacher’s discretion, in order to help students better understand the material taught, or to achieve a better grade. If the student turned in the assignment early, they are obligated to continue to work on the assignment until they achieve at least a 3 on the rubric scale, or an 85%. If the student turned the assignment in by the initial due date, and if the teacher asks the student to re-do the project to achieve a better grade, the re-done project/assignment will be eligible for full credit if the assignment meets the rubric criteria for a 3 or 85%, and is turned in on time.

The purpose of this Master Re-Do policy is to provide students with maximum instructional support and make sure that every student does their very best and makes wise use of available class time.

MAKE-UP WORK/LATE WORK POLICY:

All assignments and instructions are posted to the Google Classroom and therefore there is no such thing as “make-up work.” Make-up work is whatever the student missed while they were absent and is available through the Google Classroom for any students who are absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to find out what he/she missed while absent from school and get the work that he/she needs to make up.

Students will be held accountable to the policies set forth in the student handbook concerning absences. [The student handbook can be found on the Laurel High School website.](#) The specific text that concerns absences is found on page 16. In short, regardless of the reason for an absence, students are still expected to complete work on time. However, illness or injury can derail the best laid plans, and this is understandable. Additionally, sometimes students need more time to fully integrate information they are learning or to complete projects they are making. In any of those circumstances, students can fill out an Extension Request form. In this form, students will state which assignment they need more time to work on, they will propose a new due date that they think they can actually accomplish, they will share 3 steps that they intend to take achieve completion of the assignment by their proposed due dates, and they can also ask for any additional support they think they need to get the assignment done (within reason). Each student will be given only 2 opportunities each quarter to request an assignment extension. This limit is put in place so that students learn to better manage their time and activities, and also don't abuse the extension system.

Students who fail to meet deadlines but turn in their assignments late will lose 2 points for each day the assignment is late. If the assignment is not turned in by 10 days from the due date, the assignment will not be accepted.

CLASS MATERIALS AND CLASSROOM ENTRY "TICKET":

In order to gain entry to my classroom each student is asked to bring the following items and materials with them to class every day, unless otherwise noted by the teacher:

Absolutely Required To Gain Entry to the Classroom:

- School Lanyard (MUST be worn around the neck at all times)
- NO HATS or HOODIES!
- Put your cell phone in the cell phone motel

Students who are not in compliance with those three requirements will be denied entry to the classroom and sent to the office.

Required Items to Get Full Participation Points Each Day:

- A #2 (HB) Pencil
- The visual journal they created at the beginning of the semester.
- Their school-issued Chromebook and a charger (NO personal computers or tablets are allowed in my classroom and should be left in the student's locker)

While we are attending school in-person on site, all other necessary materials will be provided during class.

Online Learning Supply List:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, we have experienced the occasional need to shift teaching to an online environment. Although it is highly unlikely that instruction will be shifted online again, I like to be prepared. In the even that online learning becomes necessary,

even for a short period of time, I have lessons planned that all students can complete at home with the following set of supplies:

- A set of #2 pencils (regular pencils)
- A set of colored pencils (at least 10 colors, but a larger set would be great)
- A set of pan watercolors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, violet, black, brown)
- A hand-held pencil sharpener
- A set of watercolor brushes (fine tip, medium round, 1" flat)
- A 9"x12" pad of multipurpose paper (good for drawing or light watercolor painting)
- A 4"x6" sketch pad (multipurpose paper) for a visual journal (homework assignments)
- A pink pearl eraser
- A pair of scissors
- A set of markers (at least ten colors, but a larger set is fine)
- A 12" ruler
- White school glue
- Glue sticks

In the very unlikely event that we must go online for remote learning, students will need an art kit for working at home. This list of supplies is also listed in the Google Classroom.

LATENESS AND ABSENTEEISM:

It is expected that each student will be present and on time to class each day, ready and prepared to learn. Any student who arrives late for class without a pass will lose attendance points for that day, and will not receive extra time during class to complete their Warm-Up for that day; they will make it up online for homework. Similarly, if a student is late for class during a quiz/test, the student will **NOT** be granted extra time to take the assessment. Students who are chronically late will be subject to the consequences outlined below.

Daily attendance is expected from all students. Please be aware that excessive absences from class will negatively affect your performance, as it can be quite difficult to catch up once you have fallen behind. Furthermore, because some missed assignments can not be made up, students who are absent frequently may quickly fall behind. Failure to attend class regularly and keep up with assignments will result in the student receiving academic detention [as outlined in the student handbook](#).

CLASS RULES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Students are expected to abide by the Laurel High School Code of Conduct, as outlined in the [student handbook](#), at all times. In addition, students will be required to abide by the non-negotiable student commitments as expressed by the school policy [in the Student Handbook](#), and as simplified in the rules posted in class.

Sometimes, students are required to bring photos that they have taken to use as references for drawing projects, or other items (rocks for the Kindness Rock Garden, etc.) for various projects. When students forget to bring these items in, some of them end up wasting class time. Art class is not a study hall and there are lots of tasks that students can help with to make the art classroom run smoothly for them and their classmates. These activities include making clay, folding towels, cleaning the sinks and surfaces around the classroom, organizing art supplies, and more. If students forget the necessary materials for a project they are working on, they will be given a classroom task to make wise use of the class time. Students will not be allowed to sit around and distract other students, nor will they be allowed to use the art class as a study hall. If they refuse to do the classroom task they are given, they will lose all of their attendance, participation, and citizenship points for the day.

CELL PHONE OR ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE:

The use of cell phones or any other electronic devices (CD / MP3 players, headphones, etc.) is strictly prohibited during class time. Because every student at Laurel High School has a school issued Chromebook, there is no need for cell phones or other personal electronic devices in the classroom. All school work that requires an internet connection will be done on the student's school-issued Chromebook.

At the beginning of class, students will place their cell phones in the Cell Phone Motel by the door on their way into class. Students who do not place their cell phones in the Cell Phone Motel will not be allowed to enter the classroom and will be marked absent from class. This rule is 100% non-negotiable.

Cell phones must be kept in the Cell Phone Motel during class. Students may not use their phones or any other electronic devices during class for **ANY REASON**, with only one rare exception: to occasionally take photos of their work with the permission of the teacher in the rare event that they are unable to do so with their school-issued Chromebook. Occasionally, it is preferable to get a high resolution image which a cell phone is better equipped to provide. In such a situation, the cell phone must be returned to the Cell Phone Motel immediately after the photo is taken. However, if the student is just taking a photo so they can turn in their assignment to Google, the camera on their school-issued Chromebook is more than sufficient.

Cell phones and other electronic devices will be confiscated if they are seen or heard in class. Consequences for violating this rule will be administered as set forth in the LHS [student handbook](#). **First offense:** I collect the phone and the student may retrieve it at the end of the day, and the loss of all Attendance/Participations points for that day. **Second offense:** I collect the phone and give it to an administrator, from whom the student can collect it at the end of the day, and the loss of all Attendance/Participation points for that day. **Third offense and every offense thereafter:** Behavior referral in Infinite campus and consequences as set forth in the Student Handbook, and the loss of all Attendance/Participations points for that day. Refusal to surrender the cell phone when I ask for it will result in a minimum of 1 day of in-school suspension, [as per the student handbook](#).

For the convenience and assistance of the students, in order to help them avoid the loss of points, the use of their phone, and behavior referrals, I have provided a Cell Phone Motel in my classroom where students are required to park their phones and put them to sleep in order to avoid temptation.

If/when students need to go to the restroom, the library, etc., they will leave their cell phones in the Cell Phone Motel. Cell phones will not leave the classroom during class time, [as per the student handbook](#).

PROGRESS REPORTS

In order to help students keep track of their progress and provide remedial support, updated grades for each student will be posted in Infinite Campus every Friday. I also send out Missing Assignment Reports every Friday. This practice is to help students to know at any given time what their current grade is, help them assess their own progress through the course, and remind them of any missing assignments that they have not turned in (if eligible).

HALL PASSES AND RESTROOM BREAKS:

Students are encouraged to use the four minutes of passing time between classes to go to their lockers, use the restroom, get snacks from the library, etc. No passes will be given during class to get snacks from the library. In the event that the student is having a restroom emergency, each student will be allowed ONE (and only one) restroom break during class. Students are only permitted to go to the restroom one at a time. For this reason, students get TWO MINUTES for bathroom breaks during class. The restroom is right outside of my classroom and this has proven to be plenty of time for students to do what they need to do and also wash their hands. Students who are gone longer than two minutes to the restroom will lose

one attendance and participation point for each additional minute they are gone from the classroom. This is to ensure that ALL students who need an emergency restroom break can have one, since students are only allowed to go to the restroom one at a time.

Students going elsewhere during class time (library, guidance counselor, office, etc.) will go directly there and directly back to the classroom without making any detours along the way. Students will have a time-stamped pass signed by me sending them to where they are expected, and will then have a teacher sign the pass and time-stamp it when they return to class. Students who abuse the pass and wander the halls will receive a behavior referral and lose all of their attendance and participation points for that day for skipping class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to respect the intellectual property of others and exhibit academic integrity at all times. If a student is caught cheating, plagiarizing, or misusing the work of another student, they will immediately receive a failing grade on the assignment and a written office referral to an administrator.

FINAL EXAMS:

All students are required to take the final exam at the end of the semester. I do not give exemptions based on cumulative grades or for any other reason. Administering a final exam is how I assess what students have learned in the Art History & Criticism portion of the class. The final exam is worth 10% of your final grade. The content of the final exam is based on all the vocabulary, art critiques, and artworks in the Daily Bell Ringer throughout the semester, all of which should be in the student's visual journal. The students get to use their visual journals on the final exam. If they have been doing the visual journal assignments they will have no trouble at all passing the final exam.

RECEIPT & CONFIRMATION THAT YOU & YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN HAVE READ THIS

The next page contains my contact information and a signature sheet. BOTH you and your parent/guardian MUST sign this RECEIPT/CONFIRMATION. This information is to be read over by both you and your parent/guardian. Please sign and return the signature sheet to me by September 1, 2023. You will receive a grade for doing this--it is worth 100 points (the easiest 100 points you will have ever earned, or a huge ding to your ATP grade if you don't return it, and a bad start to the semester). The course syllabus is posted to your Google Classroom for your own reference throughout the semester.

TEACHER CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time, or visit me in class (appointments or advance notice **greatly appreciated**). You can reach me via email or telephone. Email is by far the best way to contact me and will get you the fastest response. My contact information is:

Email: ceilon_aspensen@Laurel.k12.mt.us

Telephone: 406.628.3500, ext 3524 – I can be reached at school between 8:00am and 4:00pm. I do not answer the phone while I'm teaching so please leave a message so I can call you back.

Go to the next page to sign the Syllabus Receipt/Confirmation.

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RECEIPT & CONFIRMATION–Both the Student AND their parent/guardian MUST sign this!

In the event that your student has not shared the syllabus with you in their Google Classroom, you can read the syllabus for this course in its entirety by following this link:

<https://ceilon.com/teacher>

Scroll down to the class your child is taking and find the link for the syllabus for their class.

I have already sent a link to my teacher page to your email address on file in Infinite Campus for your review.

I, _____ (parent/guardian) have read this entire syllabus and my signature indicates that I understand all of the expectations and rules of Ms. Aspensen's classroom and the specific sections of the Laurel High School Student Handbook set forth in this document. **Date:** _____

I, _____ (student) have read this entire syllabus and my signature indicates that I understand all of the expectations and rules of Ms. Aspensen's classroom and the specific sections of the Laurel High School Student Handbook set forth in this document. **Date:** _____

Ms. Aspensen's CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time, or visit me in class (appointments or advance notice *greatly appreciated*). You can reach me via email or telephone. ***Email is by far the best way to contact me and will get you the fastest response.*** My contact information is listed below:

Email: ceilon_aspensen@Laurel.k12.mt.us

Telephone: 406.628.3524 – I can be reached at school between 8:00am and 4:00 pm. I do not answer the phone while I'm teaching so please leave a message so I can call you back.