

AP ART 2020 -2021

Are you ready for AP ART?

The AP Studio course is an amazing journey. You will travel deeply into the process of making art that is meaningful to you. Success will require you to have a very strong work ethic, good drawing ability and a strong design sense. The pace is challenging because you will not only be working at a fast clip during class time but putting in about 8 hours a week at home and working over breaks. I will be putting a Google Slide Show together of various art works, both by past students and professional artists. This will hopefully put you in the correct mindset to get started. A more effective way to get there however is to just keep sketching. Works from observation (it's a good time to get outdoors), are what AP judges will want to see a lot of. Originality, creativity, imagination and effective presentation are too.

Recharging your creative spirit and learning new skills-

Under the circumstances of social distancing, it would be safest for you to take courses remotely this summer. I did a quick search of colleges that offer summer classes. There are a gazillion out there though I do not know if any are free. Life drawing classes might be tricky at home if no one is willing to sit or stand long enough for you to do gesture drawings of them, but there may be some good tutorials that would be worth your time. YouTube has many tutorials on just about any type of art you want to learn. Not all of them are great, but some are. Apply what you've already been taught to your art and be proactive about learning more.

I'm here to help you move through this process-

My approach to facilitating your portfolio work is not to give you all the same assignments to do. Instead, I will work with you individually and base my feedback on the theme you chose. **YOU MUST DECIDE ON A THEME BEFORE THE OFFICIAL START TO OUR CLASS. DO NOT WASTE PRECIOUS CLASS TIME DOING THE DEEP THINKING YOU NEED TO DO THIS SUMMER. THE ONUS FOR COMING UP WITH THE REQUIRED ART PIECES, GETTING YOUR WORK DONE ON TIME, AND KEEPING A JOURNAL THAT DOCUMENTS YOUR ART (and thought) PROCESSES IS ON YOU.**

I have created our Google Classroom and posted something already. Sign in and have a look. Our class code is **zjxotoz** (all lowercase letters). I plan to create a Google slide show to inspire some possible summer assignments. In the meantime, explore the Collegeboard website **apcentral.collegeboard.org** to see in full detail what will be expected of you. They have not yet posted the specific requirements regarding the number of art pieces you will need to create. It used to be 15 "Sustained Investigation" pieces, plus 5 "Selected Works." Due to the necessity of remote learning this school year they changed it to 10 plus 3 pieces. There is no guarantee that it will stay that way so count on creating a 20 piece portfolio that you start this summer by producing your first 4 **portfolio worthy** works of art. These, plus a grade for your journal work will be your first 5 grades for the coming school year, all of which are worth 100 points.

I'm looking forward to working with you this coming school year. Hopefully it will be in person however, in all honesty, I doubt that will be the case. Contact me with any questions you may have by using my preferred email: mcalkins@fairfieldschools.org



"Just slap something on it when you see a blank canvas staring at you with a sort of imbecility. You don't know how paralyzing it is, that stare from a blank canvas that says to the painter *you can't do anything*. . . . Many painters are afraid of the blank canvas, but the blank canvas is afraid of the truly passionate painter who dares – and who has once broken the spell of 'you can't'."

—Vincent van Gogh