

Focus of Learning for Visual Arts K – 12

from *Engaging Students in the Arts: Creating, Performing, Responding*, The Perpich Center for Arts Education, 2004

Visual Arts:

Visual Arts: Focus for Primary Level Learning

Children generally enter elementary school with a basic curiosity about visual art. They enjoy exploring art materials and techniques, and their art making reflects their personal interests and experiences. Students also enjoy looking at art and other visual images. Students should enter school with a basic art vocabulary such as the names of colors, lines, and simple shapes. They should also be able to identify colors, lines, and simple shapes in works of art.

During the primary grades the focus of student learning is developing the skills to use a variety of materials and tools to create art while developing and refining motor skills. Students should have the opportunity to explore, imagine and use various art media while learning the creative process and developing the ability to do creative problem solving. Primary student should develop a visual arts vocabulary—including the elements of art—as they investigate art from around the world and from different times.

Visual Arts: Focus for Intermediate Level Learning

Students entering the intermediate grades should understand the creative process and have basic skills in creative problem solving. They should also have knowledge of various media and the basic skills to use them to create art that expresses personal interests and experiences. Student should understand the concepts of historical time periods and diverse cultures in reference to visual art. They should also enter the intermediate grades with the ability to describe visual art and other images using visual art vocabulary.

The focus of student learning at the intermediate level is on the development of skills to analyze artistic choices and the ability to form generalizations about art. Students focus on the skills of planning and refining their artwork and explaining their ideas and choices during the creative process. This includes knowledge of various media and their effects as well as solving more complex visual problems using the elements and principles of visual art. Intermediate students expand their visual arts vocabulary while viewing, discussing and comparing art from various cultures, times and styles to develop knowledge of visual arts in various cultural and historical contexts.

Visual Arts: Focus for Middle Level Learning

Students entering the middle level should possess the skills to explain artistic choices and to form generalizations about art. Student should be able to plan and refine their artwork and describe their ideas and choices during the creative process. They should also have knowledge of various media and their effects and be able to use the elements and principles of visual arts to solve more complex visual problems. In addition, students entering the middle level should have knowledge of the cultural and historical context of visual arts and the vocabulary to discuss and compare art from various cultures, times and styles.

One focus of student learning at the middle level is on developing skills in refining artistic choices to communicate artistic intent and meet specific criteria. Student should develop skills with various media to create specific effects related to the artistic intent and criteria. Included in this

focus is the understanding of the elements of visual arts and principles of design in terms of their effects on the expressive qualities of their own and others' artwork. While studying the artwork of others, students should focus on analyzing, interpreting and evaluating works of art from other cultures, historical periods and styles with emphasis on the social context.

Visual Arts: Focus for High School Level Learning

Students entering the high school level should have the ability to refine their artistic choices to communicate artistic intent and meet specific criteria. They should also possess a skill level with various media that allows them to create specific effects related to the artistic intent and criteria. In addition, they should understand the effects of the elements of visual arts and principles of design in terms of expressive qualities, both in creating their own art and in the study of the artwork of others. They should be able to analyze, interpret and evaluate works of art from different cultures, historical periods, and styles with consideration of the social context.

The focus of student learning during high school is on developing an understanding of general aesthetic principles and the historical development of artistic ideas. Included in the focus is the development of the student's abilities to compare and contrast their artistic ideas and creations with the work of other artists.

Student creations at this level involve more demanding media and address more complex visual problems. While studying how art relates to the people of various cultures and time periods, student learning should focus on specific styles and artists as well as art history concepts.

