

BEGINNING DRAWING
Wheat Ridge High School
Jefferson County Public Schools

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Length of course: 1 semester
Prerequisite: An open mind
Grade level: 9-12

Course Description

This class is designed to provide students with basic understanding and application of drawing techniques. Rooted in the principles of design and elements of art, *Beginning Drawing* offers an introduction to a variety of technical and creative approaches. Students work in various black and white, and color media, as well as interpret three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. Emphasis is placed on hand, eye, and mind coordination to build confidence in the act and process of drawing. Students will be encouraged to make connections between the visual arts and other disciplines. This instruction enables students to attain a higher understanding of the world as well as increased levels of critical thinking.

Course Objectives (in accordance with Colorado Visual Arts Standards)

- Students recognize and use the visual arts as a form of communication.
- Students know and apply elements of art, principles of design, and sensory and expressive features of visual arts.
- Students know and apply visual arts materials, tools, techniques, and processes.
- Students relate the visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions.
- Students analyze and evaluate the characteristics, merits, and meaning of works of art.

Classroom Policies

Students are to be involved in critiques, fulfill necessary research, and complete written assignments. Student behavior may not interfere with the learning environment and students must follow safety policies. Subjects not acceptable include drugs, sex, nudity, alcohol, or profanity. Art work including any of the above will not receive credit and will be referred to the administration. Respect is given and earned in the art studio. Students are expected to respect opinions, space, ideologies, and artistic approaches of *everyone* in the studio. Students must come to class prepared to work. If materials (sketchbook, drawing pencils, erasers, etc.) are not present, students will be unable to work on their project and will be given a cleaning assignment for the period. Students are responsible for cleaning all messes they incur while working in the studio. If students are found defacing any equipment or furniture, they will be required to stay for Access to clean.

Grading Procedures and Policies

Students must complete projects in a satisfactory manner before credit will be given. This means devoting the required daily participation and if necessary, spending time outside class to finish. Assessments include completed assignments, participation in classroom critiques, and written evaluations. Project grades are determined upon satisfactory completion of assignments, meeting standards and deadlines given by the instructor. Project rubrics and participation assessments will consider assignment guidelines, technique, studio work habits, critique involvement, effort, and creativity. Accommodations and grade modifications will be implemented for special needs students.

Late Work

Due dates will be given for each project and students must submit finished assignments on these dates to receive full credit. Unfinished projects will not be accepted. Students will lose 5% of the project grade if they fail to submit an assignment on the due date but get it in within two weeks of the deadline. Students will lose 10% of the project points if they finish and submit the project anytime after two weeks late until the close of the current six-week grading window.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory; it is important to be in class for demonstrations, lectures, individual instruction, and critiques. Students are expected to actively participate in class critiques and discussions; therefore, unexcused absences and tardies will immediately impact the participation grade. Make-up and late policies are aligned with published WRHS policy.

Students will start the semester with a perfect participation score of 50/50. For every unexcused tardy the student will lose 2 points from the possible 50; and, for every unexcused absence, the grade will drop 4 points. The unexcused tardies may be made up by serving one-hour after school in the studio, half of which will be filled with cleaning / room prep duties (the other half may be used to work on student artwork). These tardies must be made up during scheduled open-studio times. Unexcused absences may not be redeemed. Please note that the attendance points will only be totalled and docked from the participation grade at the close of each six-week marking period.

Access: Room 23

Instructor will provide additional open studio time for students to come in before school and work on their art. *Extended Access* can be set up by appointment (3:00 - 4:00pm) and open studio will be available most Tuesdays after school until 5:00pm.

Fee: \$25

The art fee covers pencils, paper, and most other materials necessary for this course. Students are responsible for providing a 9" x 12" sketchbook (hard-bound or spiral) to record notes, preliminary drawings, extension of ideas, and complete sketchbook assignments. Students fee must be paid to receive materials for this class.