

# FINE ARTS – VISUAL ARTS

## *PHILOSOPHY OF THE VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM*

A strong arts education is integral to learning and has a positive impact on overall student achievement and engagement in school. The artistic process teaches secondary students to problem solve, think critically, and work collaboratively with others – essential skills for the twenty first century. Daily art classes provide an opportunity for in-depth learning in art production, art history, aesthetics, and art criticism. By making art and learning to understand the artwork of others, students extend their language and deepen their thinking.

## *LCHS COURSE CURRICULUM*

Lexington Catholic High School’s Visual Arts curriculum provides the foundation for high quality, standards-based arts education. This document outlining course descriptions has three goals: to communicate to parents and students what skills and concepts are emphasized in each course, to define prerequisites in order to enroll in the class, and to clearly articulate which semesters courses are offered.

## INTRODUCTION TO ART

Semester - offered fall and spring every year

Introduction to Art is a beginning course for any student wishing to learn studio art, and is a prerequisite for all other studio art classes at LCHS. Inspired by observation and imagination, students will create original artwork in realistic, abstract, and nonobjective styles. They will explore the tools of the artist, the elements of art, and the principles of design, while developing technical skills in contour line, value, linear perspective and portraiture. Students will also learn to analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand how art is related to history and culture.

**\*\*ESP INTRO TO ART: For Visual Arts Exemplar Scholars only, to be taken Fall semester of Freshman year. In addition to the above curriculum, students will use advanced techniques to communicate complex ideas in order to begin to develop their own artistic voice.**

## DRAWING I

Semester - offered spring semester every year

Drawing I is a beginning course in two-dimensional media for all students who have completed Introduction to Art. This course offers an in depth study of technical skills used in drawing as well as an introduction to printmaking. Students will experience a wide range of media and techniques, including charcoal, pencil, and pastel. They will create original two-dimensional artworks based upon the themes of observation, expressive figure/portrait, architecture, landscape, still life, and personal communication of an idea. Students study and critique the work of other artists, past and present, which will enhance their knowledge of good design, beauty, and meaning in art. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Art*

**\*\*ESP DRAWING: For Visual Art Exemplar Scholars only, to be taken Spring semester of Freshman year. In addition to the above curriculum, students will use advanced techniques to communicate complex ideas in order to begin to develop their own artistic voice.**

## PRINTMAKING

Semester - offered spring semester every other year (2016-1017)

Printmaking is an introductory class open to all students who have taken Introduction to Art, and although not required, Drawing I is highly recommended. Students in Printmaking will continue their study in drawing techniques and explore various techniques and approaches to printmaking such as monotype, linoleum block printing, silk-screening, and collagraphs. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving, handling the materials, craftsmanship, and creative solutions to assigned projects. Students will analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand the evolution of printmaking in the history of printmaking.

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Art required, Drawing 1 recommended*

## PAINTING I

Semester - offered fall semester every year

Painting I is a beginning course for all level students who have completed Introduction to Art. Students will learn to use traditional painting techniques such as watercolor, acrylic, and mixed media. Students will also study of color theory in depth and develop compositions from direct observation of still life, figure, portrait, and the works of the masters, as well as from their own ideas and imagination. Students will analyze and critique artworks from the Renaissance, Impressionism, Expressionism, and Cubism as well as discuss aesthetic issues, and understand historical influences on the evolution of painting. Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

**\*\*ESP Painting: For Visual Art Exemplar Scholars only, to be taken Fall semester of Sophomore year. In addition to the above curriculum, students will use advanced techniques to communicate complex ideas in order to begin to develop their own artistic voice.**

## PAINTING II

Semester - offered spring semester every other year (2019-2020 and 2021-2022)

Painting II is a continuation of Painting I for the advanced student. Students will develop advanced watercolor, acrylic paint, oil paint, and mixed media techniques to create original artworks. Students will paint from direct observation, as well as explore expressive painting, figure, landscape, and portrait genres. Students will analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand historical influences on the evolution of painting. Prerequisite: Painting I and consent of the Visual Arts Faculty

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Semester - offered fall and spring every year

Photography I is a beginning course open to all students who have completed Introduction to Art. Students will learn how to use the manual and automatic functions of the camera to take great photographs that they will enhance through the use of Photoshop. Students will explore the world of photography and express themselves through projects such as: painting with light, creative selfies, forced perspective, motion photography, and postcard making. Students will analyze and critique photographs, discuss aesthetic issues, understand the historical development of photography, and relate a photographer's work to the society in which it was created.

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Art and **students must have their own digital SLR camera***

## PHOTOGRAPHY II

Semester - offered spring semester every other year (2017-2018 and 2019-2020)

Photography II will provide students with an opportunity to further develop and build upon the skills learned in Photography I. Students will explore digital shooting techniques including multiple exposure, photo advertising, silhouette photography, and high key lighting. Students will also expand upon their knowledge of digital image editing with Photoshop.

*Prerequisite: Intro to Art, Photography I and consent of Visual Arts Faculty*

## GRAPHIC DESIGN / DIGITAL ARTS

Semester - offered fall semester every other year (2016-2017 and 2018-2019)

Graphic Design is a beginning course open to all students who have completed Introduction to Art and although not required, Photography is highly recommended. Students will explore visual communication as it applies to commercial art careers. They will create original posters, magazine and book designs, illustrations, and advertisement campaigns for school productions. Students will learn and use technical skills with traditional drawing and painting media as well as Adobe Photoshop computer software program. Students will analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand the evolution of letterforms and the origins of graphic design in the history of art. This course emphasizes creative solutions to client driven design problems, personal artistic expression, and communication through new media technology.

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Art required, Photography recommended*

## CERAMICS I

Semester - offered fall and spring every year (due to limited to space, preference given to Juniors and Seniors) Ceramics I is a beginning course in three-dimensional media for all students who have completed Introduction to Art. Students will learn various hand-building methods such as pinch, coil, and slab building, as well as the potter's wheel. Emphasis will be placed on the design process, problem solving, craftsmanship, and proper technique. Students create original works that are both functional and non-functional. Students also analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand how ceramics objects have been used in history across many cultures. *Prerequisite: Introduction to Art*

**\*\*ESP CERAMICS I: For Visual Art Exemplar Scholars only, to be taken Spring semester of Freshman year. In addition to the above curriculum, students will use advanced techniques to communicate complex ideas in order to begin to develop their own artistic voice.**

## CERAMICS II

Semester - offered spring semester every other year (2016-1017)

Ceramics II is a continuation of Ceramics I for the advanced student. Students will learn to throw ceramic pieces on a potter's wheel and continue to refine hand building as well as decorative surface techniques. They will create original functional and non-functional pieces and express themselves through the themes of architectural relief, figurative ceramics, and vessel forms. Students will study, analyze, and critique artworks from Greek, Asian, and contemporary American artists. They will discuss aesthetic issues, and relate what they learned from studying historical forms to their own designs.

*Prerequisite: Ceramics I and consent of Visual Arts Faculty*

## SCULPTURE

Semester – offered fall semester every other year (2019-2020 and 2021-2022)

Sculpture is a beginning course in three-dimensional design for all students who have completed Introduction to Art. Students will develop technical skills in the use of various media such as plaster, paper, wire, and found objects. Within each unit of study, various artists and artistic styles will be covered as well as different sculptural techniques. Students will work from observation as well as their own imagination. Emphasis will be placed on problem solving, handling the materials, craftsmanship, and creative solutions to assigned projects.

Students will analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand how art is related to history and culture. *Prerequisite: Introduction to ART*

**\*\*ESP SCULPTURE: For Visual Art Exemplar Scholars only. Visual Art Exemplar Scholars are required to take Sculpture or Ceramics I in the Spring semester of their Sophomore year. In addition to the above curriculum, students will use advanced techniques to communicate complex ideas in order to begin to develop their own artistic voice.**

## HONORS ART

Semester - offered every semester - open only to juniors and seniors

Honors Art is a studio course in which the student develops a high level of personal creative expression, aesthetic judgment, and technical skill in visual art. Students communicate complex ideas and individual voice is developed through the use of sketchbooks, gallery visits, and a variety of creative thinking strategies. Studio activities center on development of technical skills in a wide variety of traditional drawing and painting media as well as new media. Students study and critically respond to historical works of art, artists, and art periods in the process of refining their own work as well as learn to prepare and present their work for group critiques, portfolios, and exhibitions. Work developed may be used in the student's AP Studio Portfolio.

*Prerequisite: 1.5 credits in the Fine Arts and consent of Visual Arts Faculty*

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) STUDIO ART

Full year (2 semesters) - offered every year - open only to juniors and seniors

The Advanced Placement Studio program is designed to help students build a strong AP Art portfolio for submission to the AP College Board at the end of the school year. Students can earn up to five hours of college credit upon successful completion and submission of their AP artwork. Students will create original artwork that demonstrates technical skills in a wide range of media though a variety of themes as well as complete a concentration that consists of a body of work around a student-selected theme. **Students are required to submit a portfolio at the end of the year to the College Board.** AP Studio Art is designed to meet the demands of the AP Studio Art Syllabus published by The College Board. Work developed during the previous year may also bridge into the AP portfolio. Typically, the work developed of AP Studio Art portfolios and will also double as college entry portfolio application requirements.

*Prerequisite: Minimum 2.0 in four semesters of high school art including at least one advanced level course and/or Honors Art, and consent of Visual Arts Faculty*

# EXEMPLAR SCHOLAR STUDIO ART SEMINAR

Semester - offered fall every year – Visual Art Exemplar Scholars only

Students in Senior Seminar will work independently to create, promote, and display original artwork. Projects in this class will revolve around the creative and the professional aspects of being an artist. Students in this class will learn to photograph their artwork, matte artwork, write a resume, and use social media to promote their artwork. Students will also study and write about the artistic careers of established artists as a means of developing a model for how to make a career as an artist.