

# Art Studio

Liberty Intermediate School

All about choice-based  
learning/Teaching for  
Artistic Behavior

[Molly.Miller@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:Molly.Miller@eu.dodea.edu)

Ms. Molly  
Miller,  
Art Teacher

## Meeting Visual Arts Standards

The choice-based learning program here at LIS is firmly rooted in the visual arts standards presented by DoDEA. The visual arts standards for grades 4 and 5 include the following:

**VA1 Media, Techniques, and Processes: Demonstrates understanding and can apply media, techniques, and processes.** This includes learning and using various materials, tools, techniques, and technology appropriately and safely. Through demonstrations and creation of art, students learn art techniques and how to safely and appropriately use art materials.

**VA2 Structures and Functions: Demonstrates knowledge of structures and functions.** This includes understanding, utilizing, and analyzing elements of art and principles of design, such as line, shape, space, movement, pattern, and balance. Students learn about elements and principles through demonstrations, and utilize the elements and principles during art production.

**VA3 Subject Matter, Symbols, and Ideas: Chooses and evaluates a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas.** This includes developing and using personal ideas, as well as examining and understanding ideas of others. Students are constantly looking at artwork of others, as well as coming up with ideas for their own art.

**VA4 History and Culture: Demonstrates understanding of the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.** This includes looking at, analyzing, and categorizing art from various time periods, cultures, artists, styles, and locations. Through mini-lessons and exploration, students will be exposed to art from various time periods, locations, cultures, artists, and styles.

**VA5 Characteristics and Merits of Work: Reflects upon and assesses the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.** This includes describing, analyzing, and evaluating art in a variety of ways. Students will be expected to produce artist statements for their artwork, requiring them to reflect upon their art. They will also analyze and evaluate works of other artists throughout the year.

**VA6 Connections to Other Disciplines: Makes connections between the visual arts and the other disciplines.** This includes understanding how art relates to other disciplines and the "real world". Through teacher instruction and art production, students will naturally make connections to other disciplines and the world around them.

**VA7 Technology Integration: Understands and creates art through technology.** This includes incorporating technology into the art studio. Students will be responsible for documenting their artwork (photographing artwork and artist statement, uploading art onto computer, and if desired, uploading artwork onto LIS art studio website).

## Studio Centers

Studio centers are the key element in a choice-based art room. These studios are small learning areas in which students create their art. Materials and information is carefully arranged to facilitate learning and art production. The following are examples of studios in the art room:

**Drawing**

**Painting**

**Collage**

**Printmaking**

**Sculpture**

**Fibers**

Jewelry

Bookmaking

Clay

Photography

## Benefits of Choice

- In a choice-based art studio, students are taught to *think* like artists. They follow the same steps “real” artists do, such as coming up with ideas, selecting materials and tools, setting up a workspace, reflecting upon their work, creating artist statements, and sharing art with others.
- Students are encouraged to develop and refine their *own* ideas, styles, and techniques.
- New concepts are introduced each art period, though students are able to work independently to complete assignments.
- While students are exposed to a wide range of ideas, techniques, and processes, they are also able to become subject matter experts in areas as well. (They might even teach others!)
- When students are able to choose their work, they are more likely to be able to describe it, discuss it, and evaluate it.
- Time is used wisely. Mini-lessons and demonstrations are important, but take up small amounts of time each class period. Most of the time is then able to be used for art production. Additional instruction is given to individuals or groups as students work in studio centers.
- Students can work at their own speed. Some students may work on mastering a skill over several weeks, while other students may become proficient at many skills throughout the same time period.
- Students continuously work toward improvement, but without comparing themselves to others. No two students’ art will look the same, so there is no inherent competition or comparison.

## “Childlike” Art

You will probably notice that artwork being produced in the choice-based studio looks a bit different than artwork being produced in other art classrooms. Instead of slight variations of the same project, you will see wide ranges of materials, subject matter, and ideas. This authentic art may not be as polished and “perfect”-looking as art seen in the past. Students are developing their own ideas, processes, and techniques based on their experiences and the world around them. This world and their experiences are different than ours, and, because they are still a child, their art should and will be “childlike”.

## Assessment/Grading

As noted in the September newsletter, Students will be completing two skill-builders and two W.O.W. projects each quarter. As a teacher, I will be assessing using rubrics, observations, checklists, and individual conferences. Students will also have opportunities to self-assess to measure growth over the year. Throughout the observations, rubrics, checklists, and conferences, students will be assessed on their ability to think like an artist: find inspiration, plan, select and gather tools and materials, set up workspaces, use materials safely and appropriately, engage and persist, innovate and create, employ the elements of art and principles of design, finish art projects, revise and edit work, and reflect upon their art and the artistic process.

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” –Pablo Picasso

*\*Much of the information in this brochure was inspired by TAB/Choice-based brochure*

*created by Joyce Moore Jaime, Visual Arts Teacher at Everygreen Elementary School.*