

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT: VISUAL ARTS LEARNING ESSENTIALS

The Visual Arts Standards of Learning identify the essential content and skills required in the visual arts curriculum for each grade level or course in Virginia's public schools. Standards are identified for kindergarten through grade eight and for four core high school courses. The standards are designed to be cumulative, progressing in complexity by grade level from kindergarten through the sequence of high school courses.

Within each level or area, the standards are organized into four related strands. Although the strands are presented separately for organizational purposes, in practice they are integrated throughout all visual arts instruction, regardless of the particular classroom or ensemble experience. They shape the visual art experience and guide the instructional process at all grade levels.

The content of the Visual Arts Standards of Learning is intended to support the following goals for students in all art classrooms:

- Select and use art media, subject matter, and symbols for expression and communication
- Demonstrate understanding of and apply the elements of art and the principles of design and the ways they are used in the visual arts
- Solve visual problems with originality, flexibility, fluency, and imagination
- Develop understanding of the relationship of the visual arts to history, culture, and other fields of knowledge
- Use materials, methods, information and technology in a safe and ethical manner
- Interpret, reflect upon, and evaluate the characteristics, purposes, and merits of their work and the work of others
- Identify, analyze, and apply criteria for making visual aesthetic judgments of their work and the work of others
- Develop aesthetic awareness and a personal philosophy regarding the nature of, meanings in, and values in the visual arts
- Develop understanding and appreciation of the roles, opportunities, and careers in the visual arts and related areas
- Develop awareness of copyright and royalty requirements when exhibiting, producing, or otherwise using the works of others

Web Link:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/fine_arts/index.shtml

Strand 1: Visual Communication and Production

- * Develop and communicate ideas by creating works of art
- * Develop visual, oral, and written fluency using art vocabulary and concepts
- * Express ideas and feelings through 2D and 3D art production
- * Respect the own work and that of others
- * Demonstrate safe and ethical practices in the use of art materials, tools, techniques, and processes

Strand 2: Cultural Context and Art History

- * Develop an understanding of the visual arts, in relation to history and other cultures
- * Learn to understand the role the visual arts play in communicating historical and cultural beliefs and ideas
- * Study works of art and the people who produce them

Strand 3: Judgment and Criticism

- * Make informed judgments about works of art based on established art criteria
- * Use a variety of strategies to analyze the visual qualities and interpret the meanings of works of art
- * Employ critical evaluation skills in the production of their works of art

Strand 4: Aesthetics

- * Reflect on and analyze personal responses to expressive and communicative properties of artwork
- * Understand how background, knowledge, and experiences influence perceptions of works of art
- * Examine issues related to the visual arts and draw conclusions and reflect on the nature, meaning, and value of art.
- * Recognize the difference between personal opinion and informed judgment