Course Expectations Pelto **Visual Communication - CP**

Course Overview

Welcome to **Visual Communications CP.**

This is an art elective.

Traditionally, artists have used tools such as pencils, charcoal, clay, paint and paintbrushes. With the technological advances we are enjoying as we head into the new millennium, artists are no longer limited to traditional tools. Technology is a fast paced, ever changing medium that offers lots of creative opportunities as well as lots of challenges.

In this class, you will be introduced to some basic technology that can help you express your ideas as an artist.

- You will learn about digital citizenship and to assess resources you find on the Internet.
- You will research past and present photographers.
- You will learn how to operate a digital camera. Along with that, you will learn the basic elements involved in taking successful photographs, such as elements of art and principles of design.
- You will learn how to edit your artwork and incorporate successful design and color techniques to produce original, creative and visually successful artwork in Adobe PhotoShop.
- You will begin to build a professional portfolio of your work.
- You will be expected to discuss, reflect upon and evaluate your work and progression of your skills.
- You will be expected to evaluate and offer constructive feedback on the work of your peers.
- You will learn how to create a PowerPoint presentation.
- You will learn to create a newsletter using Microsoft Word and a pamphlet using Microsoft Publisher.
- You will learn to enter data and create a graph in Microsoft Excel.
- You will learn to build and edit a web page using Microsoft Front Page.
- You will learn to create animations using Macromedia FLASH.
- You will incorporate your art skills to create original, creative and visually successful web pages.
- You will learn to explore geography through Google Earth.

School academic objectives:

AO1 – Acquisition of Skills

AO2 – Problem Solving.

Preparation for Class

Each student is required to provide the following :

- An email address
- **USB Flashdrive at least 1GB (also known as a thumb drive)**
- A 3 ring binder with a folder or pockets. This will be used to take notes, and to keep handouts, rubrics and evaluations organized.
- A creative imagination.
- A willingness to help others.
- A positive attitude and desire to learn.

Student Behavior

- Students are expected to dress according to the school dress code. Clothing must cover you appropriately whether standing or sitting. Your teacher and peers have the right not to be offended, embarrassed, distracted or uncomfortable in the classroom.
- Students are expected to arrive to class on time, with whatever materials are necessary to participate in class. Tardiness will not be allowed to disrupt the beginning of class. If you are late, wait outside the door quietly until introductory class directions or presentations are finished. If you are late, you must have a pass from the previous teacher with your name, date, time and teacher signature.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner to both classmates and faculty. Appropriate language, discussion topics and actions are expected at all times.

- Students are expected to be quiet and refrain from making unnecessary noises or comments during lectures, demonstrations, discussions and student presentations.
- When students are at work on projects, quiet talking is permitted. However, talking will not interfere with the artwork or concentration of others.
- Students are expected to work to the best of their ability during the entire class period.
- Except for emergency, students are expected to visit bathrooms before/after class.
- The only places students are permitted to access while on the computer are their own personal files and software and sites specifically assigned by the teacher.
- Any deliberate attempt to vandalize another student's artwork will not be tolerated.
- Any deliberate attempt to vandalize technology/art equipment will not be tolerated.
- Students and parents will need to read and sign a technology use agreement provided by the school.
- NO food or drink or gum is allowed in the art/technology room.
- NO personal electronic devices, music players or cell phones are allowed in the art/technology room. They distract you from interacting with your peers and your teacher. Electronic devices will be confiscated after the first warning and a parent will need to pick up.
- Plagiarism is defined as submitting work that is not your own, to include taking resources from the Internet, another student, or using photographs that other people have taken. You cannot copy and/or use anyone else's work without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarized work will get a 0 on the project and school disciplinary action.

Unacceptable behavior will result in a warning, an assignment of an after school detention and/or suspension of computer privileges. Repeated violations will result in referral for disciplinary action for after school or Saturday restitution.
Violations of the school technology policy will result in suspension of computer privileges and/or a 0 on the affected assignment(s), at the discretion of the teacher.

Course Syllabus
This is a general overview and timeline of the topics that will be covered in class.
Obviously, schedules must be flexible due to holidays, field trips, assemblies, snow days, vacations, standardized testing and technical difficulties.
Accordingly, some topics may get more or less attention, or the sequence may vary slightly.
This is an Art elective and emphasis will be placed on concepts to satisfy that requirement.

Weeks 1 and 2	Digital Citizenship and Internet Research
Weeks 3, 4 and 5	Building and editing a Web Page - Microsoft Front Page and Microsoft PowerPoint
Weeks 6, 7 and 8	Digital Photography - Introduction to Elements of Art
	Photography Web Quest - Appreciation of past and present photographers
	Digital photography
	Critique, discussion, peer evaluation
	Using Microsoft Excel - research and graphing
Weeks 9, 10 and 11	Digital Photography - Introduction to the Principles of Design
	Masters of the Renaissance
	M. C. Escher
Week 12	Using Microsoft Publisher – creating an Art History Pamphlet
	Review of Internet research skills
	Using Microsoft Word - publishing a newsletter
Weeks 13, 14 and 15	Adobe Photoshop - editing and creating
	Framing and Presentation - printing, cropping, framing and display ,
Week 16 and 17	Computer animation - FLASH
Week 18	HTML and Google Earth
Week 19	Looking Through Our Lens – Final Project
	Final Exam Individual Student PowerPoint Presentations

Make Up Work

Students who miss class because of an excused absence are responsible for approaching the teacher for missed work. If a work request is submitted during the absence and work is provided through the office, it is expected to be turned in on the day of return. There will be no makeup work accepted for unexcused absences.

Because this is a hands-on learning experience, absences will significantly hurt the student's progress. It will be difficult to make up work outside of class without the proper software/equipment. Arrangements can be made for students to come in after school for makeup work or extra help.

Grading/Evaluation

CLASSROOM PROJECTS can be defined as exercises to practice a new concept or skill. They might also include classroom discussions and quizzes on vocabulary or on individual concepts. They will normally be 1-3 class periods in length.

CLASSROOM LABS can be defined as a project that incorporates the combined use of several concepts or skills learned. They will normally be 3 - 8 class periods in length.

GRADING: Each project or lab will be graded on a point basis. Labs will be worth more points according to length and difficulty. The student's quarter grade will be determined by total points earned divided by total possible points.

Students are expected to arrive on time with the required materials and attitude to participate fully in class each day.

The FINAL EXAM will be an authentic assessment of the skills that the student has learned in this class. Students will participate in a project called ***Looking Through Our Lens.***

Using their own photographs, FrontPage and Google Earth, students will create a ***Virtual Tour*** to show the viewer a place or business in The West Boylston Community.

Also included in this project is a student photography gallery called ***Teens Succeed in a World of Need.*** Students will submit photographs of teenagers doing something positive in their school or community or reacting to current events in a positive way. Student work will be published online.

The final project will be presented to the class during the exam block.

The FINAL SEMESTER GRADE will be calculated as follows

- 40% First quarter grade
- 40% Second quarter grade
- 20% Final Exam

Online Course Site

There is an online site for the Visual Communications class.

The student will need a user name and password to log on, which will be created on the first day of class.

Students will log on here to access class assignments, links to web sites, and participate in discussion topics.

This site will be used to supplement what is done in class, for homework and for makeup work during student absences.

Signatures

I have read and agree to the Course Expectations for **Visual Communications CP.**

I have reviewed the

Course Overview _____
Preparation for Class _____
Behavior Expectations _____
Grading Policy _____
General Rubric _____
Course Syllabus _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____