



ST. FRANCIS – ST. HEDWIG SCHOOL
Growing Together in Faith and Knowledge

Curriculum for Fine Arts

The following curriculum describes what students will be exposed to in the area of Fine Arts at each grade level.

Fine Arts Philosophy

Through the study of art, students at St. Francis - St. Hedwig School are encouraged to articulate their faith through aesthetic self-expression. Students begin to explore and develop their observations of the world while at each level of our program becoming more self-assured in their skills. We believe that developing creativity is essential to the spiritual and social growth of every student. The art program at St. Francis - St. Hedwig School creates the bedrock for the future aesthetic challenges our students will face. The fine arts program draws on techniques that will empower students to discover their capacity for joining their feelings and perceptions with academic talent. Each student has the ability and talent to recognize the world in their own unique way. St. Francis - St. Hedwig School believes that through our understanding of art we can develop a closer relationship with God and in turn build a relationship with other individuals and cultures. Communication through art can open the door for students to discover the world, learning that when we make art and come together as a community, we assert our humanity.

Kindergarten Fine Arts Program

With the use of a variety of media such as clay, paper, paint, colored pencils, markers, wire or glue, our arts program is designed so that children can explore their creative possibilities. The teacher steers these activities through the process of classroom exploration where children can safely experiment with a variety of techniques in order to communicate their ideas. This process helps kindergarten students begin to learn the boundaries of the materials and how those boundaries will change as their skills develop.

Grade 1 Fine Arts Program

The art program strives to develop confident young artists who are not afraid to tackle challenging projects. With each challenging project students are encouraged to use mistakes as a means of discovering a new way to process and create visual art. An eagerness to go out on a limb and travel new artistic avenues will help stimulate this learning process. A better understanding of the creative media will allow students to achieve an independent visual voice. A goal for First Grade students is the ability to work independently by the end of the school year. To accomplish this task, the teacher looks to develop fine motor skills and lengthen the student's capacity for each class project. These projects will alternate between a 2D and 3D design that are both abstract and descriptive in nature.

Grade 2 Fine Arts Program

The Second Grade fine arts curriculum encourages students to place their ideas into a clear visual format while working independently. Second Grade projects alternate between a 2D and 3D designs. Color theory is essential to the aesthetic development of students in second grade. They will begin to mix paint and incorporate the use of primary, secondary and intermediate colors in their observations, invented abstractions and vision.

Grades 3 and 4 Fine Arts Program

In third and fourth grade, students begin to concern themselves with a wide range of ideas related to the world around them. This understanding comes from the expansion of their limited personal environment to an interest in new societal, historical, and cultural ideas. The art program is constructed with this in mind. In the third and fourth years of art instruction, students will learn to techniques in ceramics, papier-mâché sculpture, and found object art. They will create contour and gesture drawings, self-portraits, and landscapes. Lessons that emphasize collaborative efforts will play an important role in the development of students in third and fourth grade. In the production of art, students use a variety of materials such as oil pastels, watercolors, acrylics and tempera paints, colored markers, printer's ink, India ink, pencils, papier-mâché, vine charcoal, and adhesives.

Grade 5 Fine Arts Program

Our objective and focus in the fifth grade fine arts curriculum is the introduction of art history as a means of better understanding color, form, and composition so that students can create original works of art. The teacher will start with lessons in prehistoric cave drawing and cuneiform that connects art with humankind's earliest forms of written language. As students begin to develop their own artistic language and we study more advanced works of art so to do their observations become more complex. Art is the student's ally in self discovery and subsequently continues to develop their awareness cultures and traditions other than their own. The lessons learned in a fine arts program extend outside the art studio as students enter into new social settings and tackle other academic challenges. Art is intertwined with every subject and advances would not be possible in science, math or language without the creativity that artistic achievement instills. Art helps us to observe and understand problems from a less provincial point of view.

Grade 6 Visual Arts Program

Six grade students will build on the aspects of the previous year's lessons and further develop their artistic language, technical skills, and knowledge by examining the communicative power of the artist. Students will explore the process in which certain subject matter becomes art and how the artist creates meaning from their materials. Six grade students at St. Francis - St. Hedwig School will be encouraged to reflect on these ideas as we draw still life arrangements, portraits and collage. Throughout the year students, learn that to be successful with their work it must clearly represent the artist's message and ideas.

Grade 7 Visual Arts Program

Seventh grade students will continue to discover a deeper understanding for the world of art and use this knowledge to advance the meaning of their own artwork. Students are encouraged to reevaluate their initial ideas so that they may analyze and interpret their own art work alongside the work of classmates. The fine arts program will provide students with a variety of media so that they may utilize and recognize different design principals in their journey of self-discovery. Projects will include figure drawing, mask making, ceramics, and sculpture.

Grade 8 Visual Arts Program

In Eighth Grade students will focus on collective efforts to embolden their perceptual and aesthetic consciousness through a mural or banner project. This project will expose them to formal problems of creating large scale images as well as work through the difficult situations that arise in any collaborative effort. The teacher will lead students in discussion so that the class can come to an agreement on a theme for the mural. As long as there is a clear consensus in regards to the theme each student can play a role in creating the image of this mural. The teacher and the class will take these ideas and synthesize them into one cohesive arrangement. Students will practice with sketches, figure drawing, and exposure to the great mural painter.

