

Dear Art Student,

Welcome to AP Studio! This class is an AP class and will be taught as a college level class. Together with your hard work and my guidance we will prepare your portfolio for college submission and submission to the College Board for AP credit.

I have prepared a supply list that must be brought to school everyday beginning the first day of classes in September. Supplies can be purchased at Dickblick.com, Michaels, AC Moore or any art store. If you have a problem with purchasing the supplies please contact me at [Utopia17@optonline.net](mailto:Utopia17@optonline.net). I will supply many art supplies throughout the year, however these are the supplies that each AP student should purchase as their personal set.

- a pencil case/bag to put supplies in
  - set of drawing pencils (only B's. B2 – B9)
  - 1 ebony pencil
  - 1 box of soft charcoal's
  - 1 box of vine charcoal (soft to medium)
  - 14"x17" drawing pad (not smooth)
  - kneaded erasers (at least 4 jumbo size)
  - Black factis erasers (2)
  - Fine point black pens – sharpies (4)
  - Beginners set of Windsor Newton water-soluble oil paints (Michaels carries these).
- In addition to this set you may want to purchase burnt umber, raw sienna and panes gray.
- Paint brushes both flats and rounds in different sizes.

These materials will be used throughout the year. It is important for each artist to have his or her own set of materials. Whatever you don't use can be saved for your freshman year of college. If you will be applying to college for art, an additional purchase of a presentation case will be needed it will house all your finished work for art school submission. I will let you know when you will need to get this item.

You will be expected to complete at least 3 of the 6 following assignments during the summer. Please bring them back to school in September and be prepared to critique and discuss your work on the first day of school. I expect high quality work. Examples of high quality work are on the last page of this letter. These will be your first grades. Feel free to email me at: [Utopia17@optonline.net](mailto:Utopia17@optonline.net) with any questions. Do your best. Do not bring in hastily prepared work that looks like you spent little time or put little effort into it. I will not accept poorly done work. AP art students are expected to perform at a first year college level.

In addition to the required assignments, you are highly encouraged to draw as much as you can in your sketchbook. If you see something interesting or have an idea or emotion you want to express, grab your sketchbook and get it down on paper! You might also find it helpful and inspiring to visit museums or galleries over the summer, get on the internet and visit art college sites to see examples of college level work, and visit the AP website to get more information and see examples.

Things to consider when completing your work:

**Elements of art:**

line, color, texture, contrast, shape/form

**Principles of art:**

harmony, center of interest (focal pt.), balance, unity, movement (direction), rhythm

**Value/shading** - blend shadows and highlights in a convincingly realistic manner. Do not smudge!

**Perspective** - use one and two point perspective. If you do not remember the rules, do some research or get in touch with me to get some help. You will need to be familiar with this knowledge next year.

**Line sensitivity** - use line in an expressive manner, vary the thickness and type of line or tool to describe the object or feeling.

**Contrast** - Experiment with a variety of textures, lines, values, colors, patterns, etc.

**Composition** - the most important element in drawing and painting. Each edge (side of the paper) should be different. No two corners should look alike.

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Summer Assignments: 3 out of 6 completed by first day of school.

**Must be high quality! I will know if you spent time on these or created them the day before school starts. Only high quality work will be graded the rest will receive grades of 0. If you are not sure what high quality is, look at the examples provided here, look on the ap website and on the wmhsart.org website or email me at the address provided.**

For all assignments, complete a minimum of 5 thumbnails to find the best composition. You may use any media unless it is stated otherwise. All thumbnails and final drawing should be done in your 14"x17" sketchbook. ***I will check thumbnails along with the final finished artwork on the first day of classes.***

- 1 - Create a piece using reflective objects. Focus on composition and pay close attention to the distortion that may occur. Be creative. (look up work by M.C. Escher "Hand with Reflecting Sphere", 1935). other ideas: back of spoon, broken mirror. **To be done in the medium you are most successful with. If you use a computer you must create a vector drawing using either Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop.**



Reflection in a window.



Reflection in a pot.

- 2 - Create a work depicting some type of architecture such as a building or bridge. (also see M.C. Escher, "Street in Scanno, Abruzzi", 1930, "Balcony" 1945, "Relativity" 1953). Be as creative as possible. **To be done in the medium you are most successful with. If you are going to use digital photography experiment with composition, color, overlapping images. Take at least 50 different shots including different views.**

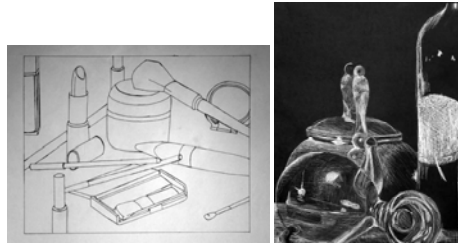


Example of architectural composition.

- 3 - **A.** Set up a still life, create a pleasing composition. Draw the still life in contour lines only, varying line width. Think outside the box. Some examples: black paper white pencil, positive negative space; let pictures overlap. **Any medium.**

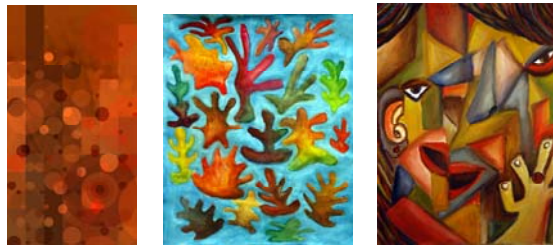
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**B.** When finished with the contour drawing, create another piece of *art using the same still life*. Make sure it is a finished piece of work and demonstrates a high quality observational drawing including your understanding of value. **Any medium.**



Example of contour drawing and full value using black paper and white pencil.

- 4 - Draw, in color, the flaming colors of autumn. Be creative. What do you find outside during this season? This can be done realistically or abstractly (look up work by Dali and Matisse). This can also be done graphically but not with the computer!  
**Any medium. If you use a computer you must create a vector drawing using either Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop.**



self-portrait of student in the fall.

- 5 - Draw 3-5 views of your hand overlapping, make sure this drawing is done in **pencil** and shows understanding of value.



- 6 - Draw a household tool. **Any medium.** Use your imagination. Pay attention to composition. **To be done in the medium you are most successful with. If you use a computer you must create a vector drawing using either Adobe Illustrator or Photoshop.**

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Finally, be thinking over the summer of ideas for your concentration. *Please see the AP Studio website ([www.wmhsart.org](http://www.wmhsart.org)) or go to the Ward Melville HS webpage, departments and offices, art department, Ward Melville Art Department page, Our Teachers, click on AP Studio art under Mrs. Trettner. You will see many examples of student work.* This is a good time to begin collecting images, taking photographs, doing sketches and jotting thoughts that might be helpful to you when you begin working on your concentration. By the end of April, each student needs to have completed 12 pieces for concentration, 12 pieces showing breadth (overall artistic experiences), and 5 original pieces to be sent to the College Board for AP credit. Digital slides must also be completed by this time. There is an AP fee which will be announced sometime after January 1.

I found some of these notes on a website by another AP Portfolio/Studio Teacher. I believe they are good thoughts for you to keep in mind.

#### **Thoughts for Serious Art Students:**

Accept the fact that there is no shortcut to becoming an artist. Hard work, discipline, sincerity, intensity, involvement and love of what you are doing are prerequisites.

Realize that a beautiful drawing is the result of a visual search for structural relationships. You do not set out to make a beautiful drawing, you set out to discover visual facts.

Study the character of line quality. A line can be as powerful as an A-bomb or as tranquil as sleep. Other lines have hidden knowledge behind them. A few simple lines that Matisse or Picasso would draw contain volumes of knowledge and experience.

Discover the beauty in small things as well as large things. A small insect or seashell can have equal validity to a tall skyscraper or an elephant. Size is no measure of strength. Strength comes from a relationship of inner parts as related to the whole. A small etching by Rembrandt has an equal strength to a large line drawing by Matisse.

Study the drawings of the Old Masters. Analyze, copy, and study the drawings. There is a wealth of knowledge stored in the drawings that artists have used for centuries. Seurat, the French 19th century artist, said, "I discovered myself by studying others..."

#### **Your sketchbook...**

- Take your sketchbook with you everywhere.
- Sketch everything you see...in the library, in the movies, when you go to the beach, a friend's house....
- The sketchbook is a mirror and reveals all. These graphic experiences expand your visual sensitivity and develop and strengthen your eye. In this way, your sketchbook is a thing of beauty in itself.

#### **Suggestions for Concentration: The concentration section will contain twelve images that relate in some way. These pieces must show exploration, growth and development.**

- A series of expressive landscapes based upon personal experience of a particular space
- Abstractions developed from cells and other microscopic images
- Interpretive self-portraiture and figure studies that emphasize exaggeration and distortion
- A personal or family history communicated through the content and style of still-life images
- A project that explores interior or exterior architectural space emphasizing principles of perspective, structure, ambiance created by light, etc.

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- A figurative project combining animal and human subjects - drawings, studies and completed works
- The design and execution of a children's book
- Development of a series of identity products (logo, letterhead, business card)
- An exploration of pattern and designs found in nature and or culture
- A series of fabric designs, apparel designs, or weavings used to express particular themes
- Depicting a time series, showing the time of day over seasons using the sky as inspiration

These are just suggestions when/if you come up with an idea over the summer, jot it down in your sketchbook and continue to write any thoughts that come to mind regarding your concentration idea. I always find writing to be helpful.

Extra help will be available throughout the year during my free periods and periodically after school. I know this is a lot of information, but I promise that even though we will work hard, you will enjoy the class. Soon enough you will find that we (the entire class) have become a family.

Have a wonderful summer, get working but most of all enjoy being creative. Challenge yourself to think outside the box.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Trettner

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