**Beginning Ceramics**

**Course Description, Syllabus and Contract**

Teacher: Jennifer McLees,

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Office Hours: 3rd and 7th period, art office

Website: [skylineart145.weebly.com](http://skylineart145.weebly.com/)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This beginning level art course is designed for students who have an interest in working with clay! It delves into the creative process and introduces students to a variety of techniques and compositional strategies that can be used to grow as a ceramic artist. Students in this class work both functionally and sculpturally, using both wheel-throwing and hand-building techniques. They are encouraged to develop their own artistic voice that ties to their own interests and pushes for fresh, original and well researched ideas. Throughout the process of their learning to think and act like an artist, students in this class are expected to record their process as an artist through maintaining a sketchbook and portfolio that records their investigation, research, practice and overall creative processing in making artwork.

**SUPPORTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

* Website- [skylineart145.weebly.com](http://skylineart145.weebly.com/)
  + Think of this as the textbook for the class where you can find everything from the daily agenda to in depth information on assignments and supportive lists of inspirational artists and technical support.
* Schoology- Syllabus, Link to Website/Daily Agenda and Assignment Outline/Calendar
  + Assignments are posted in Schoology as they are assigned.
  + This is where you turn things in, so be sure to sign up for Schoology alerts!
* Infinite Campus- All grades posted here!
  + Grades are entered **after** things are already due. Unless otherwise approved via email with the teacher, late work will be accepted up to 2 weeks after deadline and graded at 50%. After 2 weeks, late work will NOT be accepted. (ALL DUE DATES POSTED IN SCHOOLOGY)

**STUDENT SUPPLY LIST AND FEE:**

There are a few things you need to bring to help you perform. Besides a great attitude:

* Sketchbook (provided with fee)
* Pencil
* iPad
* Appropriate clothing: smock helpful
* Hand soap and lotion (optional)
* **$30 fee ($15, reduced lunch & $7.50, free lunch), pay in Infinite Campus**

**GRADING CATEGORIES**

* Studio Conduct- 10%  
  A daily grade will be given that reflects daily attendance/punctuality, participation and support of keeping the studio a safe and workable space. Students will receive ½ credit when tardy and no credit when absent (whether excused or unexcused). Daily studio conduct points can be made up by cleaning or other organizational tasks that support the studio.
* Formative Assessments - 40%  
  Growing as an artist is as much about process as product.  This part of the grade includes things such as daily sketchbook assignments, technical and compositional play activities (BOOT CAMPS), artist/culture research/presentations, critiques, quizzes, and other learning activities that build a foundation for art making and growing as an artist.
* Summative Assessments- 50%  
  CREATIVE CHOICE PROJECTS (40% of whole class grade) & PORTFOLIO (10% of whole class grade)  
  To show learned expertise and comprehensive understanding of ceramic art making and thinking like an artist, students will create an online portfolio (blog or website) of their formative learning, planning, and 4 major ceramic artworks. One of the portfolio artworks will focus on the wheel and the other 3 pieces on hand-built/wheel techniques that further explore artistic behaviors and themes.

**GRADING GUIDELINES**

Grades are assessed on *Artistic Behaviors* that align with the Colorado State Visual Arts Standards.

* Artists create original work through personal voice- thinking creatively, developing original ideas, developing an individualized style, making art that expresses personal ideas, ideas or opinions.
* Artists communicate- creating artwork that tells “a story”, expressing personal interests, examining important issues, and expressing meaning.
* Artists engage- creating interest through form and surface, organizing the elements of art (line shape, form, space, form, value, texture and color) to draw the viewer in, using the principles of design (emphasis, movement, repetition, rhythm, balance, contrast, juxtaposition, etc.) to draw the viewer in.
* Artists develop skills- learning new methods through practice and play, working toward improvement upon basic skills.
* Artists take risks- trying new media and process in unique and individual ways.
* Artists engage and persist- trying alternative solutions, using mistakes as learning opportunities.
* Artists collaborate- sharing ideas and knowledge, teaching and learning from others, critiquing artwork in small and large group settings.
* Artists reflect- analyzing and reflecting on work and process.
* Artists have global awareness- recognizing art trends, movements and styles, understanding how art has worldwide impact.

**General Expectations**

* **BE PRESENT-** arrive on time, cell phones and iPad apps not directly related to class are not allowed.
* **BE PREPARED-** we will use the iPad and sketchbook EVERYDAY. Bring your materials!
* **BE RESPONSIBLE**- You EARN your grade in here. Use your time wisely, follow class protocol, be aware of and use due dates, advocate for yourself, ask questions when needed and don’t make excuses. This is YOUR learning!
* **BE AN ARTIST**- the focus in this class is learning about art. When you’re not doing that, then why are you here?
* **BE POLITE**- Conversation about art and the creative process, both informal and formal is encouraged. Please be respectful of what you say and of other’s time, work effort and opinions.
* **BE SAFE**- No brainer here, right?
* **BE CLEAN**- A safe art room is a clean art room and rarely does anyone leave it cleaner than you do.
* **BE A RISK TAKER**- As Fad would say “Life and art begin at the end of your comfort zone!”

**Attendance: It is very easy to fall behind in this class when non-attendance is an issue.** Please refer to the school attendance policy.  For each excused absence day, students will get 2 additional workdays on a project.  Make up work time on projects should be approved BEFORE projects are due by making a request to the teacher in writing via email. must take place ***outside of class hours.***

**Studio Time:** At various times throughout the semester, students will have studio time. Sometimes this means time to leave the classroom to set up displayed artwork or shoot video. Parents should be aware that during studio time, students may not be supervised by a teacher. Students are required to return to class at the end of studio time to check in with the teacher.

Late Work Policy: Grades are entered in Infinite Campus **after** things are already due. Unless otherwise approved via email with the teacher before the due date , late work will be accepted up to 2 weeks after deadline and graded at 50%. After 2 weeks, late work will NOT be accepted. (ALL DUE DATES AREPOSTED IN SCHOOLOGY.)

**Clean up:** Students **MUST CLEAN UP** their materials and their work space at the end of each class period. Students mistreating or showing disregard for materials will be asked to replace them.

**School Equipment:** At any point during the semester, students may be loaned and or using school equipment including but not limited to: pottery wheels, pugmill, wedging table, computers, cameras, tripods, computer mice & keyboards, and other miscellaneous supplies. It is the student’s responsibility to use school equipment in a safe manner. If equipment is broken, damaged, lost or stolen, it is the responsibility of the student or family to pay for any replacements. No food is allowed around any large-scale pottery equipment (will be specified by the teacher).

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*I agree to abide by all rules for visual art class. I understand that if equipment is broken, damaged, or lost it is my responsibility to pay for any replacements. I understand that this contract must be signed by my parents and me in order to use materials and equipment.  By typing my name and having my parents type their name on this document means that we are using a method of signing an electronic message that indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the contract.*

*Printed Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*This contract is worth participation points and must be returned by the last day of the 2nd week of class.*