

I would like to warmly welcome you to IB Visual Arts. This 2-year program prepares you to be well-informed artists, visual thinkers and researchers who are able to critically examine their own practice and others' work. Its rigorous studio and theory requirements will demand a great amount of time and effort on your part. The entire process promises to be engaging, challenging and most of all, rewarding. The first year begins with a structured curriculum that explores various processes, art media and topics. In the second year, you will have more freedom and the responsibility for the direction of your learning, through effective work practices established in your first year. There is a strong emphasis on the process of artmaking and developing creative thinking skills as a visual artist, but this class will also help build other ATL skills such as your communication skills, social skills, self-management skills and research skills. We will also examine the nature and functions of art through TOK perspectives.

There are three primary areas of achievement in Grade 11 (1 semester) that will be key to your success in your Grade 12 (2 semesters):

**Comparative Study:** 10 slides draft (landscape format)

**Sketchbook:** 5 screens\* for each project

**Projects:** 6-8 selected class projects

*\*A screen refers to a double-sided sketchbook page.*

*Comparative Study and Process Portfolio are externally marked components while Exhibition is marked internally. For each of the components, you must familiarize yourself with the marking criteria found in the requirement handouts.*

*Students will receive only provincial marks (letter grade and percentage) in Grade 11 for the regular reporting periods (mid-term and semester end). We will be using the IB marking scheme to understand assessment for next year, and official IB marks are awarded only in Grade 12. Some may be eligible for university credits. Please note that the IB requires all artworks to be completed individually.*

#### **Other Requirements:**

- **Visual Arts Journals:** While it is not directly evaluated, your investigation journal will show evidence of all your planning and development of your creative ideas in the form of both drawings and writings. Your thinking processes should be clearly and thoroughly documented here, and must accompany all your work. I will be checking your journal throughout the course, and will provide you with helpful comments and suggestions. Your journal is not necessarily meant to look beautiful or neat its presentation, but rather the focus of your journals should be on your in-depth research, visual problem-solving, thought processes and other work of investigative nature (e.g. hands-on experimentation). You should make minimum 3-5 entries per week and write down any other reflections you may have relating to your work. An entry means any form of process engagement, not specific to certain quantity of work.
- **Meetings/ Critiques:** It is mandatory that students meet with the teacher on a regular basis and review their individual progress. This program is strict on their deadlines, and your marks are based on each of the criteria set out by the IB. Please read and familiarize yourself with the marking criteria for each required component in your *Visual Arts Guide*. (A hard copy will be also available in the classroom as well.)

- **Presentations:** For each time when you complete a project, you will be verbally describing your art and art processes and give a short presentation. In this show-and-tell, please be ready to show your sketchbook and explain ideas behind your artwork. This is a chance for you to share your talent and creativity with classmates while receiving helpful feedback, so relax!
- **Field Trips/Gallery Visit:** It is recommended that you have a chance to experience art outside of classroom in order to understand its role in a public place. I will make suggestions on site-specific locations, local studios, art galleries and museums for you to visit. While it is not mandatory, these visits are highly recommended. Note that if school trips cannot be arranged, you should find opportunities to visit on your own time.
- **Supplies:** Everyone should bring their own hardcover sketchbooks (at least 8.5x11" preferably not spiral bound) and a USB flash drive specifically for this class to save digital files. Most general art supplies are provided; however, at times you might need to purchase your own materials.

**Class Expectations:**

- **Academic honesty:** In IB Visual Arts, your academic honesty is of the topmost importance, and you need to familiarize yourself as to how to properly cite any visual or textural references you may borrow for your inspiration and research. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and if caught, you will not receive any mark at all in this course. While AI can be a research tool, any results created by AI alone cannot be substituted for your original process/work.
- **Communication:** Unlike a regular art class you may have had with me in the past, there is no extension on your project deadlines in IB. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that you make a steady progress each week instead of overwhelming yourself at the very end. Any delay could contribute to poor quality of work (and low mark) and unnecessary buildups of anxiety for yourself. Discuss any issues or challenges with me right away so that we could come up with a concrete plan. It is extremely difficult to achieve good quality work if it is rushed.
- **Creative growth:** Art is a long and at times arduous process of trial and error, and you do not always have to like your work. However, do not throw away any of your work without consulting with me first. The purpose of this program is for you to grow as a person and as an artist, and it is normal and even necessary for you to experience different feelings towards your own art. Process is more important than your finished product in your journey to become a better artist. Make sure to document all of the steps you have taken for your projects in your visual journal.
- **International-mindedness:** At the core of IB education, learners are expected to remain open-minded and compassionate individuals who are aware of their own limitations of knowledge and their personal and cultural backgrounds. It is important that students develop respect and sensitivity when evaluating the unfamiliar and embrace a wide range of experiences and expressions that may be different from their own.
- **Time management:** Be organized. Plan on completing approximately 1 project every 3 weeks. Time is your friend and enemy. While some projects might take less time, it is important for you to have enough work at the end so that you will have an option of choosing which work to include in your Process Portfolio and the Exhibition.

- **Quality Standards:** In visual arts, there is nothing like craftsmanship that enhances the quality of your presentation. Every single little detail to which you have paid close attention will speak volumes. This is something I consistently look for in all of my students' work.
- **Use of electric devices:** Smartphones, laptops and any other electric devices are to be used as a research tool. In short, if it is used wisely to add value to your projects, you are welcome to use anything. If it becomes a mere distraction or a method of escaping reality (i.e. assignments), you will lose the privilege of bringing it into classroom.

*Wishing you success in your 1<sup>st</sup> year of IB Programme!*

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