“Art helps students develop key “habits of mind” that include: higher order thinking, creativity, critical thinking, and the ability to pose and solve problems, self-discipline, and self-confidence. These skills are necessary for success in art, and once learned, can translate to success in other areas of school and life.”

-Kent Sidel, University of Cincinnati

AP STUDIO ART & DESIGN COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The AP Studio Art & Design course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition and execution of their ideas. AP Studio Art & Design is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios in May. Students will create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. Portfolios include works of art and design, process documentation, and written information about the work presented. The portfolios are evaluated on specific criteria, which include skillful synthesis of materials, processes and ideas and sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions. Students may choose to submit and or all of the AP Portfolio Exams.

The AP 2-D Art and Design, AP 3-D Art and Design, and AP Drawing courses are designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in 2-D art and design, 3-D art and design, and drawing, respectively.

As in introductory college courses, students will need to work both inside and outside the classroom and beyond scheduled periods. Homework, such as maintaining a sketchbook or a journal, should support the depth of learning expected of AP students. Constructive, formative critiques – essential in college classes – are equally important in AP Studio Art and Design. By observing, discussing, and analyzing works of art and design, students learn to evaluate their own and others’ work based on relationships of materials, processes, and ideas. Students’ individual and collaborative evaluations of work – both in progress and completed – develops their understanding of how components of a work interact to produce and overall effect. This understanding informs MAKING.

GOALS:
AP Studio Art & Design courses should address the following learning outcomes:
1) the ability to conduct a sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions
2) the ability to skillfully synthesize materials, processes, and ideas:
3) the ability to articulate, in writing, information about one’s work.

I ask my students to analyze their images frequently, both objectively and critically:

- Composition: Is there evidence of competent visual organization? Define the foreground, middleground & background.
- Contrast: Is there effective ranging of differences in the work? (Light/dark, orange/blue, types of line, solid/broken space)
- Craftsmanship: Is there evidence of technical proficiency and visual acuity?
- Creativity to task: was something done beyond the required task? How did you deviate from or expand on the idea?
- Classroom ethics: Did you use your time effectively? Did you clean up after yourself and take care of supplies? Did you use a variety of resources beyond the teacher?
PORTFOLIO:
Students can focus on one of 3 areas for their portfolio:

**Drawing** – designated for work that focuses on the use of mark-making, line, surface, space, light and shade, and composition. Students should consider marks that can be used to make drawings, the arrangement of marks, the materials and processes used to make marks, and relationships of marks and ideas.

**2D Design** – designated for work that focuses on the use of two-dimensional elements and principles of art and design, including line, shape, form, space, texture, color, value, unity, variety, rhythm, movement, proportion, scale, balance, emphasis, contrast, repetition, figure/ground relationship and hierarchy. Students should consider how materials, processes, and ideas can be used to make work that exists on a flat surface.

**3D Design** – designated for work that focuses on the use of three-dimensional elements and principles of art and design, including line, shape, plane, layer, form, volume, mass, occupied/unoccupied space, texture, color, value, transparency, time, unity, variety, rhythm, movement, proportion, scale, balance, emphasis, contrast, repetition, connection, juxtaposition, and hierarchy. Students should consider how materials, processes and ideas can be used to make work that involves space and form.

The AP Studio Art & Design course addresses two major concerns that are a constant in the teaching of art:

1. **SELECTED WORKS (40% of the total score).**
   This section of the AP STUDIO ART & DESIGN PORTFOLIO offers students the opportunity to make and present works of art and design with minimal constraints. Each work is expected to demonstrate SKILLFUL synthesis and materials, processes, and ideas. Students should carefully select works that best demonstrate SKILLFUL synthesis and materials, processes, and ideas. The submission can be a group of related works, unrelated works, or a combination of related and unrelated works. These works may also be submitted in the Sustained Investigation section, but DO NOT HAVE to be. They cannot be larger than 18”x24” or need to be high quality reproductions.
   Along with each work, students are required to submit written responses to prompts about the work. Responses are evaluated along with the images that the students submit. The most successful responses in terms of assessment are those that are clearly related to the images of work submitted, that directly and completely address the prompts, and that provide further evidence of SKILLFUL synthesis and materials, processes, and ideas shown in the work. Responses are NOT evaluated for correct spelling, grammar, or punctuation.

**Requirements and prompts**
Submit 5 physical works for Drawing and 2D Design or 10 digital images of 5 works for 3D Design: that demonstrate:
- 2D/3D/Drawing skills
- synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas
For each work, state the following in writing:
- Idea(s) visually evident (100 characters max, including spaces)
- Materials used (100 characters max, including spaces)
- Processes used (100 characters max, including spaces)

2. **SUSTAINED INVESTIGATION (60% of the total score).**
   This section of the AP STUDIO ART & DESIGN PORTFOLIO offers students the opportunity to make and present works of art and design based on an in-depth investigation of materials, processes, and ideas done over time. Sustained investigation is guided by questions. It involves practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas. The Sustained Investigation section is expected to demonstrate SKILLFUL synthesis and materials, processes, and ideas. Works from the Sustained Investigation section may also be submitted in the Selected Works sections, but they do NOT have to be.
   Along with each work, students are required to submit written responses to prompts about the work. Responses are evaluated along with the images that the students submit. The most successful responses in terms of assessment are those that are clearly related to the images of work submitted, that directly and completely address the prompts, and that provide further evidence of inquiry-based sustained investigation, through practice, experimentation, and revision. Responses are NOT evaluated for correct spelling, grammar, or punctuation, but they are scored.

**Requirements and Prompts**
Submit 15 digital images of works of art and process documentation that demonstrate:
- sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision
- sustained investigation of materials, processes, and ideas
- synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas
- 2-D/3-D/Drawing skills (depending on type of portfolio submitted)
State the following in writing:
- identify the questions that guided your sustained investigation
- describe how your sustained investigation shows evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision guided by your questions (1200 characters max – including spaces – for response to both prompts)
   Questions that guide the sustained investigation are typically formulated at the beginning of portfolio development. Students should formulate their questions based on their own experiences and ideas. These guiding questions should be documented and further developed by students throughout the sustained investigation. The original questions may, and often will, create MORE questions that will lead to the development of your works.

Throughout their sustained investigation, students need to document – with images and words – practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas as well as skillful synthesis of materials, processes and ideas. From their documentation of thinking and making, students select images and writing to include in their portfolio that most effectively demonstrate sustained investigation according to AP Art and Design Portfolio assessment criteria.
Process documentation images included in the portfolio should show evidence of practice,
experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas and/or skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas, providing insight on students’ inquiry, thinking, and making. Detail images should be submitted only when it is important to see a close-up view of a work as evidence of practice, experimentation, and revision or of skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas. When submitting work for the Sustained Investigation section, students should carefully consider the sequence of their images. There is NO required order, images should be presented to best demonstrate sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision using materials, processes, and ideas. Students should also consider the relationship of their images with the written information they submit.

For images that document process or show detail, students should enter “N/A” for size. For digital and virtual work, students should enter the size of the intended visual display.

ARTISTIC INTEGRITY:
All work must be original. If a student submits work that makes use of someone else’s photographs, published images, and/or work from another artist as a basis for their own pieces, there must be a significant alteration to the initial image beyond simple duplication to ensure artistic originality and ownership of the new work. Plagiarism, using an image (even in a different medium) that was made by someone else, is unethical and is not acceptable in this course. Through class discussions and critiques, students will be made aware of exactly what plagiarism is and what it encompasses in regard to the making of art.

1. SCHEDULE:
Because a portfolio submission of 15 digital images is needed, each student will need to complete 6 artworks or significant revisions to artworks each semester including sketches of their ideas before beginning, or roughly 1 work every 3 weeks. Students MUST submit a sketch of their planned artwork to be graded BEFORE starting the artwork. Students have up to 1 week to develop an idea/sketch in order to provide the minimum of 2 weeks to create an artwork. We will have peer and teacher critiques at different intervals along the creation process. The critique process will begin as students discuss and brainstorm their ideas before starting a project. There will be individual critiques during the art making, and another peer critique at the end of each artwork (every 2 weeks).

2. Selected Works account for 40% of the AP Portfolio score. In this class, you will be able to select from several different prompts and options to complete at least 4 works total for the SELECTED WORKS section of the portfolio. The Selected Works will be completed largely within the first half of the first semester, and are intended to help you establish classroom and workload routines and to allow you to experiment with varying materials and ideas before committing to a Sustained Investigation. In the likely event that you find that you would like to take a break from your Sustained Investigation, you are permitted to pursue a Selected Works prompt so long as you are on track to complete your Sustained Investigation works before early May. Remember, you will need 5 works for this section, but I am only grading 4 works. This section is 40% of the portfolio score so these will be graded as FORMATIVE grades in the gradebook to help accurately reflect your possible portfolio score from the College Board. Also, keep in mind that you should be selecting media that are consistent with the portfolio(s) that you would like to submit in May.

3. Sustained Investigations account for 60% of the AP Portfolio score, and focus on artworks that demonstrate inquiry though “practice, experimentation, and revision.” Part-way through the first semester you will complete and submit an Inquiry Proposal, which will identify the nature of your sustained investigation in terms of common themes, materials, ideas, and processes that you will pursue within your body of works. You will submit fifteen images total in this category for the portfolio, along with a written statement indicating the ideas, materials, and processes used in each work. Each image you submit in this category does not necessarily
have to be a unique artwork: you may, for example, submit images that document process or detail, or in some cases have two or three images that document the same artwork in different stages or degrees of detail. Ideally, you will submit 5 to 10 different artworks in this category.

4. **Written responses** will also be submitted by the student in writing so the student can begin learning from successes and mistakes, what worked and what needed to be changed. With each completed week (Thursday or Friday), students will turn in a written Artist Statement comprised of the following:

Give a brief summary of what you have accomplished in AP Studio Art in the past week, including any work you may have completed outside of class pertaining to AP Studio Art. This report can include investigative and exploratory work (such as sketchbook work and research) as well actual art-making. **Your response should be clear and detailed enough that the thought process and intention of your actions should be explicit:** for example, instead of saying “I spent Tuesday and Thursday painting my piece,” your answer might include things like color choice, specific painting media and techniques, or what area(s) of your painting you focused on. Finally, provide an estimate of your progress on a project (i.e. how close are you to being done) and indicate what is likely to happen next.

Your answer can be in bullet pointed list form or paragraph form, and might be structured as follows:

- Investigation and Exploration:
- Art-Making and Extended Projects:
- Estimated Progress on Project:
- Future Directions:

**In terms of grading, students are expected to produce one work every 3 weeks of AP quality**, take and submit a digital image of their work AND process/sketches through Google Sites and turn in an artist statements EACH WEEK. Students should work steadily and have the sufficient number of images by the end of their two semesters, as their grade in the course will be based on that work. They can then continue to improve their portfolio until the May submission date. Submission of a portfolio in May is mandatory to receive AP credit. **All students are required to complete a portfolio** (even if not submitting to the College Board for an AP score) and turn in a minimum of 3 projects per quarter, 6 projects each semester, 12 total. Projects can be turned in late up until the last day of each quarter. After each quarter ends, no late work will be accepted. Students failing to submit a portfolio of 12 works minimum will not receive a passing credit for the course.

Class will meet every other day for roughly 100 minutes. As in any college-level course, it is expected that students will spend considerable amount of time outside the classroom working on completion of assignments.

**Homework:**

An overriding concern for most AP art teachers and their students is time management. The college formula for a studio art course is two hours of outside work for every hour of class time. At the very
least, students should spend the same time working on projects outside of class that they spend in class. This allows the instructor use of some class time for presentations, critiques, and research. Students are expected to use their independent study periods appropriately. If students are not using their time to their advantage, they will be regulated or asked to drop the AP program all together. However, this should not be an issue for the serious art student.

SUMMER PROJECTS:
You will complete a digital photography database of images you can use as references for artworks and you will start it over the summer. I want you to take at least 200 photos of whatever you want this summer. AP heavily stresses you work from your own imagery for your artworks. This will help you achieve that. We will be using these images as basis for artworks this year, so take pictures of things you may want to turn into an artwork.

Set up a PINTEREST account at www.pinterest.com. Ask for an invite and then log on. Set up an account and create a board called “AP ART INSPIRATIONS”. Begin to look around on the site for anything that inspires you creatively and repin them to that board. Mostly be looking for inspirations for art projects, but could be anything that inspires you. Next find me, Brian Anderson (brian.anderson@ops.org) and start “following” me so that I can “follow” you.

You will create at least 3 artworks over the summer that will graded and give you additional works that can be used for your portfolio. These projects are due the first day of school, and if you do not receive at least a score of 2.5 or better, you will be removed from the course at that time.

Burke High School is dedicated to providing an exemplary education through the collaborative efforts of students, parents, staff, and community.

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I have read and understand what is expected of me for this course and will accept the consequences of my actions or inactions during this course.

Student Signature ____________________________________________

Parent Signature _____________________________________________