

Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Laboratory School
Visual Arts Program
Junior Grades

Philosophy

Children are born artists, and their time in art should be a joyful process of discovery, self-expression, and the broadening of ideas and techniques. Hands-on experience continues to be emphasized in the junior years, and what may otherwise be seen as mistakes are instead looked at as creative opportunities and chances to grow. Each project aims to further the students' understanding of different elements of art and design, and their applications. In keeping with our constructivist approach, student ideas play an essential role in the direction of our projects, and creative problem-solving is among the most important skills developed. Inquiry topics explored within the grade classroom are incorporated in our art wherever possible. Inquiry pedagogy and the knowledge-building principles are also employed, and are fundamental to our process. As always, it is of primary importance to promote a stress-free, supportive, and celebratory environment in our Art studio.

Class Routine

As in all classrooms, students in the Art studio practise working and communicating responsibly and respectfully in a collaborative space. Classes will often begin with a brief introduction, activity, or discussion before students embark on their own journey with their chosen media and techniques. Whenever possible, students will be given a choice in media, allowing them to explore elements and principles within areas they wish to achieve mastery. If students finish their class challenge early, they will either continue to the next stage of the project, proceed to a more open-ended exploration of media at hand, or take a few minutes to peruse one of the many art-themed books or activities in the reading area. Each class has a developmentally appropriate routine for cleaning our space.

Overview of Junior Grade Art Classes

The students in Grades 4, 5, and 6 come to the art studio in half-groups for an hour each week. Throughout the year we will be furthering our understanding of the elements and principles of art in activities that will include collage, drawing, painting, sculpture, construction, printmaking, and photography. New materials and techniques, and contextual links to a wide variety of artists will inform these explorations. Environmental and social justice themes are regularly explored in the Art Studio, as students continue to make sense of the world around them in a variety of ways. As we notice more and more of what exists around us, we will employ the artist's way of seeing to enable us to examine things more closely and deeply. We will also continue to be mindful of how our art supplies are sourced, and strive to reduce our impact on our natural world.

As well as the curriculum-informed skills and techniques being explored in the junior grades this year, the Art program strives to introduce artists and art from diverse communities around the world, with special priority given to Indigenous artists, artists of colour, and female artists, examining their great diversity and very important contributions to our landscape.

Tara Rousseau

Art Teacher

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