

**The Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study**  
**2017-2018 Visual Arts Program**  
**Early Years and Primary 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 skills. Hands-on experience will be emphasized in the studio each year, and what may be seen as mistakes are instead looked at as creative opportunities. Each project is designed to further our students' understanding of different elements of art and design and their applications. The time we have in the studio is planned with an eye to the individual nature of each group of students and their developmental readiness.

In keeping with our constructivist approach, student ideas play an essential role in the direction of our projects, and creative problem-solving skills are among the most valued. Inquiry topics explored within the grade classroom will be incorporated in our art where possible. Inquiry pedagogy is also employed, and is fundamental to our process. It is of primary importance to promote a stress-free, supportive, and celebratory environment in our Art studio.

**Class Routine**

As with all classrooms, students in the Art studio learn and practice creating 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 exploration of technique and media. Wherever possible, there will be a choice of materials offered, allowing the students to express skills through different media, and set the direction for their own mastery journeys. If students finish early, they can either continue to the next stage of the project where possible, 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 in the reading area. Each class has a set routine for cleaning the space, and our hand washing and hand-sanitizing protocols are always in place.

## V Overview of Early Years and Primary Art Classes

I visit the Nursery classroom twice a week for 30 minutes. There, I set up an Art exploration at one of the tables that the students choose to explore. The JK and the SK students come to the Art studio once a week for 45 minutes. In early years classes, our goal is continued discovery and age-appropriate mastery of different techniques and vocabulary.

Classes in Grade 1 and Grade 2 visit once a week for one hour. In these grades, the students continue exploring new skills and improve upon techniques previously practiced. There is increased independence in project direction and room responsibilities.

In all early years and primary classes we explore different elements of art and principles of design throughout the year while working in collage, drawing, painting, sculpture, construction, and printmaking.

Students are encouraged to express themselves and their ideas through their creations. It is hoped that their time spent engaged in art will inspire connections between themselves and their friends, their family, and their environment. In order to facilitate these connections, the Art curriculum 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, in order to broaden and inspire young minds.

The early years and primary classes have begun studying line, colour, and shape through printmaking, painting, and drawing, and developmentally appropriate aspects of colour theory. We have already begun our learning journey, and I find myself very excited when wondering what this year will hold for our students.

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