

Dear BVHS Art Students, Parents and Guardians,

Congratulations on choosing a Visual Art class at Blue Valley High School. We believe this will help your student develop his or her creative problem-solving skills, visual perception, and aesthetic decision-making abilities. Research suggests these skills correlate with success in other curricular areas as well.

In order to help you understand what success means in the arts, we would like to share the following guidelines. These contribute to academic achievement in the Visual Arts at Blue Valley High School. Success in the arts is not based on previous experience, but rather on demonstrated learning of specific stated goals and objectives. These include following directions, meeting objectives, and demonstrating proper techniques.

Effort is an important part of the learning process, but it is not what grades are based upon. Often effort correlates with achievement, but by itself, effort is not the determining factor.

A grade of **4** is representative of excellent work, which meets all objectives at a high level.

A grade of **3** represents proficient use of concepts, which are strongly demonstrated.

A grade of **2** reflects adequate work by the student.

A grade of **1** is evidenced by insufficient work.

A grade of **0** is unacceptable or incomplete.

We understand students are not always satisfied with their original grades received on a project. Students have the opportunity to resubmit any project for an improved grade that reflects additional learning for the activity. Students can work before and after school, during Tiger Paws, and late arrival on Thursday. When making improvements, it is the student's responsibility to initiate dialog with the instructor to clarify missed learning targets. A student must be able to accept constructive criticism and not function with his or her own personal agenda or "understanding" of art.

Many students will have to use time outside of class to hone their skills in art, just as they may need to spend additional time working on math, science, or any other academic class.

Just like every other curricular area at Blue Valley High School, we have high standards for Visual Arts students. We will provide your student with a quality education – not just an "experience" in art.

We look forward to working with your student in our classes. We hope this will be both a productive and enjoyable time for all of our students.

Sincerely,

The BVHS Art Department Faculty