

LCPS Art Mission Statement

It is art which makes life, makes interest, makes importance, and I know
of no substitute whatever for the force and the beauty of it's process
Henry James

Art is what connects us to one another and is the common human thread that runs through all cultures. It is the living voices of our people and civilization that have gone before us. When ordinary methods of communication are inadequate we turn to the arts as a means of expression.

The basis for Loudoun County Visual Arts program is to connect the students/creator to the power of the visual image and create a link between the arts of the past and present. In grades one through twelve we have set basic learning goals that strive to address the student's sequential development through art in relation to their creative expression and appreciation of art.

The first goal of the LCPS Visual Arts program is for our students to master the process involved in discovering, exploring, analyzing, discussing, reflecting, recording and synthesizing the personal, historic and cultural importance of the visual arts. At each grade level the focus is on the studio process. Art students will learn to develop personal initiative, self-discipline, critical thinking skills, and creative problem solving skills.

The second goal is for the students to demonstrate an understanding of the collective body of knowledge associated with the visual arts including: principles and elements of design, color theory, technical skills, critical/creative skills, historic and cultural comparisons, and the vocabulary pertaining to each area.

The third goal is to ensure our students understand and can discuss in written and oral forms the powerful communicative and transformative qualities of the visual arts. These investigations will enable students to expand their understanding of art history and cultures, place their own work in stylistic and historic context and broaden their personal visual communicative vocabulary.

This approach to the visual arts in our schools will prepare students for the future in several ways unique to a study of the arts. It is the power of the visual arts to engage, connect, and reinforce higher level thinking skills for our students that makes art education irreplaceable in the lives of our children.

The exercise of judgment in the making of artistic images or their appreciation
Depends upon the ability to cope with ambiguity, to experience
nuance, and to weigh tradeoffs among alternate courses of action. These
skills represent not only the mind operating in it's finest hour, but are
precisely skills that characterize our most complex adult life tasks

Elliot Eisner, Stanford University

