



Why Art Curriculum?

Why art you ask? The research is clear on all counts: An investment in visual arts education is an investment in the academic success of all students and in the community. Curriculum is an important resource and powerful addition to K-12 art programs.

Art teaches higher-order thinking and critical thinking. These skills are important as students look at and interpret the world. They also raise student performance in other academic disciplines. For example, reading in the content area of Art supports reading instruction.

Curriculum gives Art Education greater credibility within the school's overall curriculum scheme. Using scaffolded and spiraled instructional materials gives art teachers concrete evidence to show supervisors and principals that they are teaching a serious, structured art program.

Students studying art see images up close and personal. Curriculum provides complete contextual support for learners including diverse and contemporary imagery, as well as historical or biographical information. Curricular content required in standards is woven into the content with teaching support provided at the point of use.

Using curricular resources helps learners to think of Art in other frames of reference and as an important part of the human experience, more often than when they are exposed only to studio exercises. They are introduced to a wealth of information in many contexts as well as the richness of images of art, design and visual culture.

A consistent curriculum throughout a district ensures district, state and national standards are met. The use of tools, such as the online Portfolios and Lessons, gives art teachers concrete evidence to show supervisors and principals that they are teaching with the standards.

Scaffolded instruction creates a vertical alignment throughout the K-12 curriculum. It ensures that the instructional objectives are met and exceeded as curriculum planners view the entire K-12 sequence.

Curriculum easily provides for integration with other academic subjects. Cross curricular identification can ensure application and inclusion of other areas in the art classroom. Working with other curriculum areas, art can show real life applications and concepts.

A well developed curriculum can free the teacher to teach, rather than spending substantial time planning and creating lessons. A rich curriculum can be followed programmatically or used as a resource to pick and choose relevant content from. Curricular materials aid the busy art teacher in organization and preparation of lessons for single class periods, longer units of study, or full year programs.

