**Curriculum**

**Ceramics**

**Course Overview**

This course is intended to imbue in the student the historical significance and appreciation of contemporary ceramics and its places within our society. The problems of functional and non-functional ware will be addressed in detail. The students will acquire basic handling skills and a knowledge of ceramic materials along with and understanding of their chemical compositions. There will be instruction on good health and safety workshop practice. Students will be encouraged to make considered and informed aesthetic decisions and constructive criticism pertaining to both figurative and vessel forms.

**Department Standards**

Students will be encouraged to develop an involvement in and appreciation of the Visual Arts.

Students will utilize and explore a variety of media and techniques.

Students will develop interpretive skills through exposure to and active investigation of social, historical and philosophical contexts.

Students will develop an understanding of Visual Arts from a local, national and international perspective.

**Benchmarks**:

The student should recognize the different types and techniques of three-dimensional forms.

The student should be able to successfully design a three-dimensional form, employing balance, rhythm, repetition, harmony, contrast and unity.

The student should apply appropriate use of all formal elements and principles of design.

To encourage the students to implement a variety of techniques to execute a design.

To objectively evaluate a three-dimensional form.

To visualize, design and consolidate concepts.

To encourage students to experiment with a variety of methods and techniques.

To have a good knowledge of choices of construction and surface treatment and decoration.

To inspire confidence required to see a projects through to a successful conclusion.

To learn of the development of studio ceramics and also of world ceramics.

**Performance Indicators**

The student will be able to apply appropriate media within the creation of a design.

The student will be able to organize art elements to convey ideas successfully.

The student will be able to apply appropriate technical skill to create three-dimensional works.

The student will be able to utilize certain materials with confidence and sensitivity.

The student will be able to demonstrate the connection between a theme and at least two formal elements of design.

The student will be able to discuss their ideas, resolutions and final piece within a critique forum.

The student will be able to analyze works from a chosen period of history and use appropriate vocabulary to describe the analysis.

The student will be able to synthesize formal elements and principles within a cohesive figurative design.

The student will be able to communicate ideas in multiple formats and materials.

The student will be able to assemble information from social and political current events and present ideas through artistic interpretation. The student will be able to work with independence and confidence from a sculptors brief.

The student will be able to make connections between pieces in art history and their own work.

**Assessments**

Principles project.

Choose at least formal principles and develop an idea, in two dimensions. Followed by a three-dimensional creation in clay.

Investigation project

Examine the impact of one chosen artist through a social, historical or political context. Create a constructed piece based on the research.

Elements project.

Utilize all the formal elements of art through the development of a three-dimensional piece in your workbook.

Investigation project.

Combine three techniques to create a piece that is multi-functional.

Elements project.

Utilize all the formal elements of art through the development of a three-dimensional piece in your workbook.The piece must be functional.

Investigation project.

Examine and analyze one chosen piece of ceramic sculpture formally. Use this information to create a piece focusing on form and color.

The Sculptural project.

Research the role of one artist, designer or ceramicist and the message or idea behind their works. Develop your own interpretation focusing on the figure.

Investigation project.

Examine the use of traditional decorative materials within the world of ceramics.

**Core Topics**

Demonstrate knowledge and awareness of form, surface and specific techniques.

Select appropriate construction techniques for original individual artworks.

Create artworks that demonstrate use and understanding of the principles of design.

Students will be encouraged to experiment with many different methods of construction, including handbuilding and slipcasting.

The students will use a variety of clays and glazes, including terracotta, porcelain, stoneware and earthenware, oxides and underglaze colours.

Students should explore the relationship between form and function.

Students should demonstrate an understanding of clay materials, including the limitations and potential.

Compare and contrast the role in society of artists, crafts people and designers.

The students will focus on the form, and proportion of the human form.

The students will utilize and apply the principles of design.

The students will study the historical significance of a group of sculptors and ceramicists.

**Specific Content**

Building one pinch technique piece.

Creating one slab formed piece.

Forming two free design vessels, using either slab or coil technique.

Decoration of all the above, with sufficient experiments of glazing techniques.

One piece of pressed formed moulded piece.

One slip formed piece.

One free form additive or subtractive sculpture. Exploring the use of Casting slip through mould making. Developing a sculpture using heavily grogged clay.

Working with a supporting structure.

One piece designed for functional purposes, focusing on the use of texture and scale.

Two pieces focusing on the use of color and color relationships.

One piece derived or inspired by the work of a ceramicist in the twentieth century.

Creating a major figurative piece.

Creating a ceramic head introducing support structures.

The student will research and present an investigative study about a ceramicist of their choice.

**Resources**

500 Ceramic Sculptures, Lark Books

Andy Goldsworthy, Time

The Figure in Clay, Lark Books

Auguste Rodin, Phaidon Press

Ceramics Manual- A Basic Guide To Pottery Making by Graham Flight

The Complete Potter by Steve Mattison

Sources of Inspiration, Carolyn Genders

The Complete Potter: Hand-Built Ceramics, Jane Waller

Studio Pottery, Oliver Wtason