

# Ms. West's Syllabus

Welcome to **ART!!**



I am so pleased to be here at Natomas Middle School to bring your student a year of learning and creativity. This is my third year at Natomas Middle School after 15 years at Natomas High School and I have been teaching art in public schools grades K-adult school since 1979. I love teaching art and had my teaching credential at 20 years old. My goal is to help each student tap his/her own creativity. It's been a sweet ride and as I travel through each year I can honestly say I have learned as much from my student as I hoped to teach them.



"Creativity is more than just being different. Anybody can plan weird; that's easy. What's hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity"

- Charles Mingus

TwistedSifter.com

[www.twistedSifter.com](http://www.twistedSifter.com)



<http://www.lifehack.org>

## **Class rules:**

1. Be On Time and ready to work
2. Come with an open mind and curiosity
3. Listen to teacher's directions and lectures and each other
4. Be polite and show off your home training
5. Respect the room, equipment, materials and procedures
6. Participate in all class activities including clean-up
6. Come "unplugged" without gum, candy, food, drinks or electronics

## **Bring to class:**

1. Old shirt to keep here to protect your clothes
2. paper, pencil and pens

### Parent Involvement

I will put information about class activities on the school website. Please check it daily to stay up with class activities and due dates for assignments. You are welcome to visit class, make presentations to class about your artwork or other creative ventures. Feel free to call or email me anytime to check on your student's progress in class. If you have time to volunteer in class, I would love to have you.

### Class Activities:

Drawing, painting, research, reading & writing about art, collage, assemblage, clay, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics and computer art will be our curriculum as we gain art skills and creative thinking abilities. Artwork will be photographed so students can create a portfolio at the end of each semester. They will need their school Google account email and password to save work on their Google Drive and share it with me for grading. All units are written with care to include objectives, MYP learner profile traits, Visual Art Standards and Common Core Standards. Work will be displayed at school, in the NUSD Education Center, online and in the community. We have a class set (29) iPads that students will use weekly after their iPad agreement is signed. Students who are not behaving or misuse the iPad will not be included in these activities in class and will need to make up their work after school.

### Grading

Students earn points for art work, quizzes, homework and for participation. If absent they must make up their work and can find assignments on my school website. Make up work is accepted until the week before quarter grades and the week before the end of the semester. No name papers will be thrown away and students must redo those assignments.

### Discipline

Like Baseball, it's "three strikes and you're out" if student breaks the rules, the consequences are as follows:

1. Speak to student about behavior
2. Student works alone
3. Student's parents are notified

If behavior continues, students will be put on behavior contract. If we work together, we can improve behaviors which lead to success.

Contact info:

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Research note:

While school districts might be tempted to think the arts a frivolous part of the educational system, this report suggests otherwise. It looked at over 62 different studies from 100 researchers, spanning the range of fine arts from dance to the visual arts. In 2002, it was the first report of its kind to look at the impact of art on academic performance. Using this data, researchers determined that students who received more arts education did better on standardized tests, improved their social skills and were more motivated than those who had reduced or no access..

retrieved from <http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2011/09/06/10-salient-studies-on-the-arts-in-education/> on July 10, 2013