

# Middle School Studio Art / Art History

## Overview for Parents

**Teacher:** Lee Emerson

### Content Goals

The Art History program at Crossroads follows the *Core Knowledge Sequence*. The Middle School art program at Crossroads is divided into two parts:

#### Art History

While in the Lower School, Middle School students have become familiar with a variety of artworks and artists. They were introduced to important artists and their works while developing fundamental art skills and vocabulary such as line, shape, form, space, texture, color, light, design, and symmetry. In Middle School, students are introduced to the idea of classifying artists and artworks according to style and period. Art history material is covered sequentially according to a timeline. After a brief review of Classical, Gothic and Renaissance art (most of which has been covered in history class) sixth graders focus on the Baroque, Rococo, and Neoclassical periods. Art movements covered in the seventh and eighth grades extend from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. Art history correlates with other subjects wherever possible.

#### Studio Art

In creating their own art, Middle School students build on and develop an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design introduced in previous grades. The goal of the studio art program at Crossroads is for students to continue to develop fundamental art skills and vocabulary through study of the works of art outlined in the *Core Knowledge Sequence*. In their own projects, students are expected to apply and develop concepts they have learned in art history class. For example, sixth graders may have learned that Dutch artists during the Baroque period became specialists in painting one subject. Dutch still life paintings contained messages for the people of that time. In studio art class, students would paint a small still life and make up their own symbols. In creating their own works, students apply and develop concepts such as composition or use of color discussed while viewing works in art history class.

### Expectations for Students

Students will be expected to participate in art history class discussions, contribute to group work, and complete in-class assignments carefully and thoroughly. Emphasis in studio art will be on students' ability to develop their own ideas, creatively solve visual problems, and follow through on projects. In both studio art and art history class students are expected to be courteous, attentive, and respectful.

### Homework Requirements

Students will be given short reading assignments in art history class to prepare them for a quiz at the beginning of each class. There will no homework assigned in studio art. A student may occasionally need to complete an in-class project outside of class because he/she was absent.

### Contacting the Teacher

If you have any questions or concerns, my e-mail is [lee.emerson@crossroadsacademy.org](mailto:lee.emerson@crossroadsacademy.org). My phone number at school is 795-3111, ext. 128.



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