

Mingus Union High School District #4 Course Proposal Overview

To: Mingus Union High School District #4 Board of Education

From: Justin A. Monical, Assistant Principal - Curriculum & Instruction

Date: Nov 25, 2025

Subject: Addition of New Course ▾

Course Title:

Art Appreciation

Course Type:

Addition of New Course ▾

Department:

Fine Arts

Grade Level(s):

- ☐ 8
- ☒ 9
- ☒ 10
- ☒ 11
- ☒ 12

Course Type:

- ☐ Advanced Placement
- ☐ Career Technical Education
- ☐ Dual Enrollment
- ☐ Off-Campus
- ☐ Online (Asynchronous)
- ☐ Remediation/Intervention
- ☐ Core
- ☒ Elective

Credit Value:

- ☐ 1.0 Carnegie Unit
- ☒ 0.5 Carnegie Unit

ABOR Core Competency:

- ☐ English
- ☐ Mathematics
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Second Language
- ☐ Social Science
- ☒ Fine Arts/CTE
- ☐ World Languages

Course Length:

- ☐ Year
- ☒ Semester

NCAA Approval:

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Pre-requisites:

No pre-requisites

Course Description:

Art Appreciation is a foundational visual arts elective designed to engage students in understanding, analyzing, and creating art through the lens of the Arizona Visual Arts Standards. Students will explore how artists use the Elements and Principles of Design to communicate meaning, how art reflects and shapes history and world cultures, and how personal and cultural perspectives influence aesthetic response and critique. Through both analytical and hands-on experiences, students will develop visual literacy, creative problem-solving, and a deeper appreciation of art as a universal human expression.

Rationale and Need:

The addition of Art Appreciation provides both students and staff with a flexible, mid-year option that supports academic continuity and individualized course placement. By offering a semester-length course between traditional year-long sequences, students who demonstrate readiness later in the year or who need additional skill development can seamlessly enter the advanced drawing curriculum without waiting for the following academic year. This approach benefits staff by allowing for balanced class sizes and more efficient scheduling, while ensuring that students receive timely opportunities to advance their artistic growth. Overall, Art Appreciation enhances accessibility, supports differentiated learning paths, and strengthens the program's ability to meet diverse student needs.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand and Apply Elements and Principles of Design: Analyze and incorporate foundational design concepts, including line, shape, balance, contrast, and rhythm, in original artwork.
 - Explore Shape in Modern and Abstract Art: Investigate how artists use shape to convey meaning, emotion, and composition, and apply these approaches in student creations.
 - Develop Spatial Awareness in Artwork: Create depth and dimension by effectively arranging foreground, middle ground, and background elements in two- and three-dimensional works.
 - Utilize Value, Contrast, and Texture: Experiment with techniques such as ink painting and collagraph printing to create dynamic visual effects and tactile qualities.
 - Integrate Form, Repetition, and Cultural Context: Produce works that demonstrate form and repetition through sculptural and paper-based techniques, reflecting historical and contemporary artistic influences.
-

Standards Alignment:

This course aligns with the 2015 Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts.

- Elements and Principles of Design → *VA:Cr2.1.HS*: Apply design elements and principles to create intentional visual compositions.
- Shape in Modern & Abstract Art → *VA:Cr2.2.HS*: Experiment with shapes to convey meaning and explore artistic expression.

- Exploring Space—Background, Middle Ground, Foreground → *VA:Cr2.1.HS* & *VA:Cr2.3.HS*: Organize spatial elements to create depth and visual hierarchy.
 - Value and Contrast in Oriental and Contemporary Landscape Ink Paintings → *VA:Cr2.1.HS* & *VA:Cr2.2.HS*: Use value and contrast to communicate form and atmosphere.
 - Visual Balance through Paper Cutting and Papel Picado → *VA:Cr2.3.HS*: Demonstrate visual balance and rhythm through cultural and historical art practices.
 - Texture and Collagraph Printing → *VA:Cr2.2.HS*: Explore texture and process in printmaking to enhance tactile and visual effects.
 - Form and Repetition through Cardboard/Kinetic Sculptures → *VA:Cr2.3.HS* & *VA:Cr3.1.HS*: Apply form, repetition, and three-dimensional design principles in sculptural works.
-

Assessment Methods:

- Portfolio Reviews: Ongoing collection of sketches, studies, and projects demonstrating skill development and progression.
 - Unit Projects: Completed works for each unit (e.g., perspective drawings, charcoal studies, ink techniques, color studies, portraits).
 - Final Project & Critique: Comprehensive project synthesizing learned skills, accompanied by a reflective artist statement.
 - Peer and Self-Assessments: Structured reflection on one's own work and constructive feedback on classmates' work.
 - Sketchbook/Process Journals: Documentation of experimentation, practice exercises, and idea development.
-

Instructional Resources and Materials:

The addition of Art Appreciation to the curriculum will not require any additional instructional resources or materials beyond those currently allocated to the Fine Arts Department. All existing materials and classroom supplies are sufficient to support the instructional needs of the course. This ensures that the department can implement Art Appreciation without impacting the existing budget or resource allocation.

Staffing and Budget Implications:

The addition of Art Appreciation to the curriculum will require no additional staffing and will have no impact on the district budget. The course will be fully integrated within the current master schedule offerings, utilizing existing faculty and resources. This approach ensures that students will have access to advanced theatre instruction without necessitating changes to personnel or financial allocations.

Recommendation:

Approval is requested to adopt the Art Appreciation course for implementation in the second semester 2025-2026 school year.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Board of Education Action:

☐ Approved

☐ Denied

1st Read:

Board President: _____

Date: _____