

# VISUAL ARTS

Students reflect a wide range of abilities, interests, social and ethnic backgrounds. Art, as an elective part of the curriculum, affords the students opportunities for creative growth through a comprehensive program comprised of aesthetics and critical inquiry, cultural and historical awareness, studio production skills, personal development and awareness of self. A variety of course offerings provides opportunities for students to develop their artistic talents, aesthetic sensitivity and encourages the pursuit of excellence in artistic self-expression. The course work prepares students for further studies in the visual arts as a profession and for a quality life as a consumer of art and advocate for the aesthetics of their environment. Visits to museums and galleries encourage students to include the arts as part of their lifestyle.

The objectives designed for the Competency-Based Curriculum reflect measurable performance behaviors in a scope and sequence that indicate a spiral curriculum. New concepts and skills at each grade level build upon and incorporate previous learned behaviors. It is expected that students will meet the performance standards. Students are encouraged to participate in interdisciplinary activities, museum visitations in conjunction with the museum education program and exhibitions which showcase student production. The curriculum reflects both the National Standards and the Sunshine State Standards.

Visual Art education is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century essential. It helps schools move beyond one-dimensional instruction and enhances an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Sequential visual arts instruction expands and even opens new learning pathways for many students. A comprehensive visual arts curriculum integrates ideas, skills, knowledge, values and creative ability from the four art components: Aesthetic and Critical Inquiry, Cultural and Historical Context, Studio Skills and Personal Development. The program goals are designed to help students:

- ◆ Refine their understanding of the elements of art and principles of design;

- ◆ Master the use of analytical vocabulary to make informed judgments about art;
- ◆ Develop proficiency in the use of a variety of tools, materials and techniques;
- ◆ Develop skills in new technology in the visual arts;
- ◆ Refine visual perception;
- ◆ Increase their understanding and appreciation of the visual arts;
- ◆ Challenge students with the responsibility of working toward excellence;
- ◆ Enrich their lives through creativity;
- ◆ Value both the artistic expressions of their peers and the work of historically significant artists;
- ◆ Experience recognition of their outstanding work through participation in local, state, and national competitions;
- ◆ Develop an attitude of respect for, and aesthetic appreciation of, the environment;
- ◆ Develop an awareness of art-related careers; and
- ◆ Understand and appreciate world cultures and their contribution to society and the visual arts.