**Art 1 Course Description**

Art 1 is a full-year, one-credit course that serves as the foundation for more advanced art courses at LHS. It is structured so that a variety of age levels, interest levels, and prior experiences with art can be accommodated. Talent is *not* a requirement to do well in this course, but effort, attitude, willingness to improve as well as a creative outlook are. Conversely, if you wish to pursue art further at the high school level (and perhaps beyond that, even) this class is the place that will get you started with a more mature approach to art-making. It will allow you to take Art 2, Drawing 2 or Painting Studio after you finish it successfully.

You will get a background in a variety of art skills and techniques, and become familiar with several forms of media (art materials). As we go move along, the assignments will gradually start to get less straightforward, and allow more room for personal ideas and expression. I do not always have my project list set in stone, because I like to adapt it based on the particular makeup of the students enrolled to address particular strengths, weaknesses, or interests for each different group of students. However, below is a general outline of what we’ll cover this year (although it is subject to change).

The year will start off with a drawing unit, first covering the design elements of line, shape and value. From there, we will move to drawing from observation, and focus on being able to see better and draw what we see (creating the illusion that our drawings are three-dimensional). Next, comes our painting and color unit. We will learn how to mix literally hundreds of different colors only using red, yellow, blue, black and white. Eventually, we will apply this knowledge to create a self portrait and a landscape. At this point, we will take a break from two-dimensional projects and delve into a sculpture unit, using our knowledge of color and form to work three-dimensionally. The rest of the year focuses on using line to create texture and value in a variety of media, in addition to creating a strong composition in our work (how to set up things on the page the best way possible so that our work has depth). We might do a pen and ink project, scratchboard, and, finally, complete the year with a printmaking unit. Depending on how much time (if any) is left in the year, I may add in more projects based on the interests of students in the class. We may also do a research project based on artists or careers.

This course is meant to be challenging, but not so much so that success in unattainable. I understand that all students in this class are at different places artistically, but you are expected to consistently hand in quality work and push yourself to get better.