**Advanced Studio Course Description**

Advanced Studio is a full-year, full-credit course that is for students who have taken at least two full credits in high school art, with all final grades being a C- or better. It is assumed that you will have a strong interest and foundation in art, a serious work ethic, a highly creative outlook and a solid understanding of art concepts (composition, depiction of three-dimensionality, use of a variety of media, a unique artistic approach). Some of you may be planning or preparing to apply to college art programs or universities as well. This course is weighted as a higher level course, and will have a greater effect on your GPA.

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).

Also, please note that there are several of you taking this course a second time. If we do a project that we did last year, I will attempt to add an increased level of challenge for you and/or you may discuss with me the possibility of changing the project’s guidelines so that they are more rigorous/new for you (using a new medium, working on a larger scale, creating a series vs. a single piece, refining the theme, changing the medium etc.)

There will be four different conceptual themes that we will work with this year, roughly aligning with the four marking periods. Focusing on an overall idea for a period of time will allow you to explore these ideas in-depth as artists. There are three to four projects per theme. The first project will be a bit more straightforward and skills-based, and you will gradually be challenged to think more conceptually and creatively as the projects progress. We will explore a variety of media throughout the year, and, although there will be instruction and demonstration, much of the responsibility for the exploration and success of each piece will be determined by how far you are willing to go as an artist. The themes are as follows in order: Self, Community, Transformation, and Storytelling.

You will also have an ongoing homework project throughout the year (a separate sketchbook that can stand on its own as a piece of work).

Plan to have a longer critique of your in-class project and homework sketch every Friday.

This is the highest level art course students can take at Ledyard High School. It is only for the most serious of art students. You will more than likely need to use time outside of class to complete your work, in addition to completing an on-going homework project that is separate from your classwork. This course is rigorous, and you are expected to produce a large body of quality work in short amount of time. Grading expectations are higher than with other art classes. You will also be expected to share your work on a regular basis, in addition to providing feedback to your peers. I understand that there are a variety of approaches, and you may be experienced in one area, and weaker in another. But you absolutely have to have a positive artistic attitude, be open to feedback and consistently strive to push yourself.