

# Visual Art

## SEGMENT 3 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jon Murray

26 years teaching

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### About the School

**Mamaroneck High School**  
Mamaroneck, NY

**Type:**  
Suburban/Comprehensive

**Grades:**  
9-12

**Students:**  
1,400  
Middle/High socio-economic status

**Arts Requirement:**

New York has a 1-credit art or music graduation requirement (180 minutes of instruction per week for one year)

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### About the Visual Art Program

**Faculty:**  
5 full-time

**Students:**  
425

**Facilities:**  
About Average in the Area

- 5 specialized art studios
- 1 art gallery/exhibition space
- 1 office
- 1 photo room

**Required Courses:**  
Art Foundation

**Elective Courses:**  
Drawing & Painting, Advanced Drawing & Painting, Sculpture, Introduction to Clay, Advanced Clay, Advanced Placement (AP) Art Studio, Introduction to Illustration, Advanced Illustration, and Senior Art Experience

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### About the Featured Class

**Art History and Art Critique Clubs:**

As the "club" designation implies, these are not formal entities. Students have formed these clubs, designed to either supplement or complement the curriculum, with the help of faculty and the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation.

In the Art History Club, students gather during lunch or after school for slide lectures, led by a teacher, on the historical development of visual art.

In the Art Critique Club, students gather on their own to share feedback with each other on their works-in-progress.

**Student Motivation:**  
High

**In the Teacher's Words**

***How long have the Art History and Art Critique clubs been around?***

*Last year a group of juniors realized that they needed to know more art history than they were getting in their studio classes. They came to me, and we decided to start an experimental club. I wanted to squeeze art history back into an already full week, and see if there was enough interest to revive Art History as an actual course in the curriculum. We had such a course in the 1980's, but it was squeezed out when Mamaroneck (like many other schools) increased its graduation requirements – supposedly to raise standards and make high school more rigorous.*