Program 8: Nurturing Independent Thinkers

Visual Art

SEGMENT 4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Jon Murray
26 years teaching

About the School

Mamaroneck High School
Mamaroneck, NY

Type:
Suburban/Comprehensive

Grades:
9-12

Students:
1,400

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

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:

About the Featured Classes

Drawing & Painting:
Students develop drawing skills, a stronger sense of design, and insight into the behavior of color in this intermediate level studio class.

Preparations/Prerequisites:
Eligible students have taken Art Foundation

Student Level:
Intermediate, mostly tenth-graders

Typical Subsequent Courses:
Advanced Drawing & Painting, Illustration, and Ceramics

Student Motivation:
Moderate. Students have already completed one art class and decided to continue.

Advanced Placement Art Studio:
Advanced Placement Art Studio is a college-level studio experience for seniors who want to create an extensive portfolio for submission to the College Board in May, for AP credit.

Preparations/Prerequisites:
Students must be seniors and must survive a departmental portfolio review in January of their junior year. At this portfolio review, the entire art faculty considers each applicant and decides who is ready for college-level work in high school.

Student Motivation:
High. All have taken several art classes in high school. Some have had additional outside experiences: tutoring, summer programs, etc. For some, art is their main interest and they may not do as well in other subjects; for others, they're in AP Art because they're in "AP Everything Else" as well.

In the Teacher’s Words

What plans do most AP Art Studio students have after completing the course?
Most AP art students go on to college. Roughly a fifth go right to art school. More than that will go to a liberal arts college and major in art. Some will minor in art. Some leave us as undecided and decide to major in art or transfer to an art school later on.