

## Syllabus for Mr. Finch's PJH "Realistic Drawing" classes

Class Description: Do you want others to say, "Wow!" when they see your artwork? Then this may be the class for you. But making artwork—takes work. Realistic drawing takes time and attention to detail—especially detailed shading. This means that this class might not be for everyone. We will advance to cover the high state and national visual arts standards—including those for 6th grade. Crafts, doodles and flat abstract 'art' will not be emphasized since students could do that at home without qualified and experienced guided instruction. If you like a challenge—if you care more about really learning and improving your drawing, than getting an easy 'A'—this class is for you!

Art Fees: (Semester) Due by the third day of class. The fee includes an art pencil kit plus miscellaneous supplies. If you earn a "B" or above for your over all grade and pay your fees you can decorate a frisbee. If You earn a "C" or above you may take the cartooning class.

Everything you make, you keep. Art fees are for individual supplies as well as for miscellaneous things we can all use. If you don't pay the art fee you cannot get your individual supplies you will be unable to participate in incentive days.)

\* If you wish to earn an "A" for any art project, follow my suggestions on how to improve it. Whether you modified the original or turn in a replacement (Except for any points taken off for it not being turned in on time to begin with.)

My job is to educate you, not to let you do whatever you want just because this is an art class. Like many, I can usually tell the difference between a finished drawing and a half-baked sketch or doodle, but unlike many, I am also an artist and an art teacher and am trained in teaching you how to improve your work.

\*For more information about my expectations for quality drawings, see the "Drawing Portfolio Rubric"

### Late work policy:

According to school policy--No late work will be accepted the last date of the semester. If you feel like you have a good excuse, take it up with the principal. If he is OK, with it then I'm willing to work with you within the bounds of my late work policy unless I am specifically told otherwise from the principal. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and get caught up with the rest of the class. If you were absent one day, you only have one day to get caught up before it's counted late. If you were absent two days, you only have If you miss two days, you only have two days to get caught up before it's counted late. Remember that an excused absence does not mean you are excused from the work. It does not give you any more privileges than the other members of the class have. In order to accept any work late **you** will need write on top "Handed in on...(and that days date)" along with the reason why it is late and whether or not you are using your one time only "Late Pass." Then hand it in on the box on my desk that says, " no names late work, rework."

First day late = 4% off. Second day late = another 4% off. Every day late after that = 8% per day. (No credit after 14 days late and later-- No matter what the math says)  
\*\*My schedule doesn't allow me to be in my classroom in the afternoon because I'm teaching at PHS, so if you need to see me outside of class or hand something in late, you'll have to do it before school.

Grading Scale for Mr. Finch's PJH students:

93% - 100% = A  
90% - 92% = A-  
87% - 89% = B+  
83% - 86% = B  
80% - 82% = B-  
77% - 79% = C+  
73% - 76% = C  
70% - 72% = C-  
67% - 69% = D+  
63% - 66% = D  
60% - 62% = D-  
59% and below (or two weeks late) = F

I try to be reasonable about deadlines, however, there is a big difference between working hard and hardly working and I can tell the difference. Any adjustment to deadlines whether shorter or longer will be at my discretion based upon the classes' over all work ethic for that project. Those who complain about not having enough time are almost always those who start late or waste time or both. See the 'Drawing Portfolio Rubric' for some specific deadlines.

**6. Come to class on time and prepared with the materials required for the project. Be in your seat when the bell rings or you are tardy.** When you walk through that door, you become a student and need to behave as such, so visiting stops. Be prepared with a pencil your drawing in progress, your original approved visual reference as well as your art note and any handouts I've given. Time and your limited hall passes are wasted when you have to go back to your locker. Being unprepared makes it impossible for you to work on the assigned art project the entire class time.

**7. Come to class with the right attitude. Believe that art can be taught and learned.** You may have taken this class to have fun. That's great if you have fun learning how to make and improve your art. However, if your idea of having fun in an elective class means that you shouldn't be expected to put the same effort you do in your required classes you will be disappointed with the grade you earn. (I don't "give" grades, I just see that you adhere to the state and national art standards, so in that sense, I'm like an art coach, a ref and a score-keeper, but you are the artist/player and you are responsible for earning those points.

**8. Give your project 100% of your attention. Do not pay attention to your classmates. Don't do anything that keeps you or others from doing Art.** Don't yell at your friends from across the room and make everyone stop working just to listen to you. Be productive around your friends and other classmates and there will be no need to make a new seating chart.

**9. No food, gum etc.. No drinks except water in a lidded container. No cell phones unless you are specifically told otherwise.** Leave all that stuff in your locker or at home. Too many students have been distracted and have distracted others with these items.

**10. If you are not looking at your project, and it's per-approved visual reference, you are not working on an assignment. You are not drawing you are doodling.** You must force yourself to look only at your work and not your neighbor no matter how cute they are. If you are helping them with their work, you will both be looking at their drawing or the drawing of the one doing the helping that is being drawn on a separate piece of paper only. Otherwise you are doing the work for them, which makes the whole drawing unacceptable for grading.

**11. Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.** Productively work on the assigned art project the entire time you are in class.

**12. Use clean language. Be kind. Be constructive. This includes critiquing the works of others or our own.** Kindness and mutual respect for one another and for me is a must. Its one thing to offer constructive art/and or teaching criticism – It's another to make personal attacks or comments or questions designed to push someone's buttons. Comments or questions intended to put anyone down, no matter how those comments are disguised are unacceptable. That being said, carefully worded and detailed critiques are not only productive, but encouraged. It's part of the process of improving in an art class. Critiques also meet the state and national art standards for all grades 6-12.

**13. Be safe, don't misuse tools or other supplies.** Use tools and equipment and art supplies only for the purposes for which they are intended. **Do not Use rulers unless you are drawing with them!**

Draw

You can't learn to play the piano just by looking at one or just by listening to piano music. You can't become a great athlete simply by listening to a coach give a lecture on working out. The visual arts are no different. In order to learn to draw well, you will have to listen to good instruction, draw, draw, draw—draw inside and outside of class and when you are done, draw some more. The more you practice the more improvement.