

Visual Art Department Grading Policies

Grading Criteria

The following are criteria the faculty agrees are important for evaluation. The percentage of the application of this individual criterion in each art class may vary according to the emphasis of each assignment. Teachers provide syllabi and other specific information through handouts given to students. These MUST be kept in their "Folders".

CONCEPT (originality of idea)

CONTENT (quality of information conveyed)

EXPERIMENTATION (risk taking)

OVERALL QUALITY (all things considered, the success of results, including technical skills demonstrated)

PREPARATION (use of outside time in relation to the class, including the development of ideas and journal work)

Grades for most classes will be determined from two areas of evaluation (Major Grades and Minor Grades). Each grading area will be weighted differently. Major Grades (Critiques and Progress Checks...) will count as 80% of a student's overall grade, and Minor Grades (includes Supply Check and Paperwork grades) will count as 20% of a student's overall grade.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN EVERY CRITIQUE IS REQUIRED.

If a student is absent for a scheduled critique, parent verification of reason may be required to determine work creditability.

HABITUAL ABSENCE AT CRITIQUE TIME IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

If a student receives a failing grade on a "Major Grade", they may, in most cases, request a plan of action within 24 hours to remediate that grade. The plan of action will include a due date, which is non-negotiable and late work will NOT be accepted for remediation. **Remediation of a failing grade will depend on the cause of the failure. Students are urged to take the initiative to speak with instructors.**

Weighted Average

Grades in Visual Arts are assigned a weight based on the number of hours a student spends in a class and/or on the significance the faculty places on the particular element being evaluated, within the entire semester experience. Understanding the art grades on the Report Card in GradeSpeed may be a challenge.

On the HISD Report Card, art students receive 3 art grades worth 0.5 credits each, so they will have a total of 1.5 credits in art per semester. At the 9th grade level, all grades are averaged together and count the same in each of the 3 art classes to which the student credit is assigned. In 10th, 11th and 12th grade, the Performance and Productivity grade is assigned to one of the 3 classes to which the student credit is assigned and all the grades on projects, etc are averaged together and assigned to the remaining 2 art classes. Those students should have 2 grades that are the same (class grades on projects, etc.) and the third may be different (P & P average).

P & P and Conduct

Student's "Performance and Productivity" and "Conduct" in art classes are evaluated daily. Doing this allows the teacher to clearly separate the evaluation of the work (the product) from the other aspects of dedicated student/artist behavior (effort, diligence, commitment, focus...). We believe both are essential components for success in the arts. We expect students to be highly motivated and to work very hard, demonstrating their essential commitment in art since this is what brought them to HSPVA. Conduct is also evaluated independently and includes maturity, preparedness, promptness to class, clean-up and appropriate classroom behaviors. We expect students to have excellent conduct in their art area. If a student earns 3 consecutive 6-week grades of P, the final P will automatically become a "U".

Late Work

Students are required to turn in work on time. The following is the Departmental Late Grade Schedule:

- 1st day after due date: Loses 10 points off grade
- 2nd day after due date: Loses 30 points off grade
- 3rd day after due date: Grade is 0. Assignment is still required to be completed for that class.
(ALL work is required for a successful Portfolio Review.)

THIS IS ART DEPARTMENT POLICY. IT IS NOT AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTOR without permission of the Art Department Chair. (Each day is defined as a school day, NOT A DAY on which the CLASS MEETS.)

Students may bring late work to any of the full-time ART faculty, if their instructor is not available. The faculty will record the day it is turned in with a signature.

If a student has an excused absence, he/she will be given an appropriate amount of time to make up work. When work is turned in, we will note the day the work is turned in and the date of the students' return to school.

If a student is absent on the day the assignment is due, the work becomes due on the FIRST day the student returns to school. HABITUAL ABSENCE on due dates (or critique dates) is noticed and may necessitate further action.

If a student is going out of town, or has other similar circumstances AND appraises the instructor, with sufficient prior notice, the instructor may assign an alternate due date.

Report Cards & Progress Reports (Reports to Parents)

PLEASE refer to the HISD calendar for specific dates. HSPVA sends home Progress Reports in Academics (and in Art *when needed*) at about the mid-point of each 6-week grading period. Report Cards are issued at the end of each 6 weeks. The Art Department requires that BOTH BE returned promptly, SIGNED by a parent.