

KCAA DIGITAL MEDIA ART I

6th-7th Grade

Course Description and Syllabus

Semester One

Room 59

Contact Information

Cori Loehr, Digital Media Arts Instructor

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Course Description

Together we will explore core concepts of Digital Media Art with a focus on storytelling through print and moving media. In this class you will practice using the computer, media tools and software to create a personal narrative, a short cel animation and a Claymation. This class will connect art and technology by using multi-media including digital photography, videography – animation: still and live, narration, sound mixing and editing, and storyboarding to create outstanding, high quality Digital Media Art projects.

- The goal of this class is to build basic technology skills and expose you to meaningful uses of technology in everyday life and the creative industries. You will be expected to develop ideas using high level learning strategies designed to help you meet specific objectives. You will practice your writer's craft during the storyboard and self-reflection process and also learn the basic principles of design, and elements of quality work in a digital forum.
- We will start the year with team building exercises that will also introduce the tools you will need to begin a personal narrative and student portfolio (digital cameras, video cameras, basic editing, basic animation, internet research skills, vocabulary).
- You will take your new knowledge of the tools of DMA and create two short animations during the second half of the semester. Your cel animation will be about movement and the Claymation a fractured fairytale.

Expectations, Responsibilities and Grading

You are amazing and I trust you to make good decisions with your time and the content. I have high expectations for you, and I know that you are capable of great work. I believe that you are essential to the success of this school and I know that you will show me that you understand your value. I expect you to share and demonstrate your skills and gifts with this class. All school policies apply in my classroom, but there are no additional 'rules' unless your behavior demands them. You are a responsible student who deserves kindness and respect. If you can't offer those qualities to me, or to the other students, I will ask you to make difficult choices, including missing important activities including special class events, field trips and 'free choice days'.

I am in charge of the class's safety and instruction, and you are in charge of your learning, enjoyment of this class and your grade. You will be graded on several small team builders, class participation and homework, vocabulary quizzes and projects. The chart below details how grading is broken down for this course and in all middle and high school course. Student grades will be a reflection of your level of achievement toward district and state standards. I have also included how grades are reviewed in a standards based society (most high schools and colleges) so that you have a clear understanding.

Grading Breakdown		Grades in a Standards Based Society
Participation	20%	A (90 – 100%) – Advanced ~ high level of mastery
Class Work and Homework	20%	B (80 – 89%) – Proficient ~ meets/exceeds
Assessments	60%	C (70 – 79%) – Basic ~ meets the standards
		D (60 – 69%) – Below Basic ~ below, progressing
		F (59% and below) – Far Below Basic ~ displays minimal to no progress

Late policy is as follows:

- All major assignments will be given a preliminary due date at the start of the unit.
- **Only assignments turned in on time can receive full credit** (DPS absence policy applies for excused absences only)
- Assignments turned in one day after the due date will have *10% deducted*. Assignments that are 2 days late are reduced to half (for example, 100% becomes 50%, 90% becomes 45%). Late assignments will not be accepted after unit of study is complete. Remember, turning in a late assignment is better than no grade.

I am counting on you to be a member of this team and it is important for you to attend every session possible. Be on time and prepared when you arrive. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to ask for make-up work. Many assignments we complete are done in class, and you may need to come early, at lunch or after school to complete the missed learning. If you anticipate an absence, I can provide advance work with 48 hours' notice. Makeup work is due no more than 48 hrs. after your return.

Recovery of Work

- I will provide progress reports at the 6 week mark. Should your grade fall below a 68% I will send an interim report home for your parent's signature. I will also send Campus Messenger updates with missing assignments. Parents and students are encouraged to use Infinite Campus/Parent Portal frequently to keep track of student performance.
- It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher for the option to recover or re-do an assignment. Student may schedule a meeting outside of the class period or email the request, please do not ask for recovery/re-do during the class period or during instruction.
- Students must complete all recovery assignments before the 6 week progress report. Consequently, there is no recovery/re-do opportunity for the final exam.
- Recovery/re-do opportunities must be directly related to the unit of study's objectives.
- The grade will replace the initial grade.

There is zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism. A grade of zero will be assigned and the teacher will refer the student to administration for academic/behavior consequence. Parents will be contacted by the teacher or administration in the event of cheating or plagiarism. I intend to give you all the credit you deserve, so please be sure to credit work that you use from online resources. Not citing online resources or copying and pasting is considered academic dishonesty and can constitute a 0.

Texts (provided for in class use)

Multimedia Foundations: Core Concepts for Digital Design by Vic Costello

Adobe Photoshop: Classroom in a Book

How to Understand and Use Design by David Dabner

How to Make Good Movies (1950's version by Kodak, Co.)

Filmmaking for Dummies by Bryan Michael Stoller

Animation the Whole Story Animation the Whole Story by Howard Beckerman

Supplies and Materials

- Digital Media Arts Journal (the first one is free, if you lose this item it is \$5 to replace it) You are required to keep a sketchbook/journal which will contain exercises, notes, homework assignments, journal entries, and act as a record of your ideas, thoughts, and observations in this class.
- Pencil AND Pen – if you are unprepared with these items you may purchase one for .10 cents or take 0 participation points for the day.
- Flash Drive (8GB recommended) or other means of storage/transfer of your digital work

Draft Calendar, Digital Media Art One – Semester One

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
August 27 Intro to DMA	28 Team Building	29 Team Building	30 Intro to Unit 1: Navigating the Basics	31
September 3 NO SCHOOL	4 Pre-Assessments DMA & Unit 1	5	6	7
10	11	12 Unit 1 Project Due 9/17	13	14 Post-Assessment Unit 1
17 Unit 1 Project Due Presentation Day	18 Presentation Day	19 Presentation Day	20 Free Choice/Field Trip	21 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
2 Intro to Unit 2: Story through SM Cel Animate	25 Unit 2 Pre-Assessment	26	27 Storyboard Due	28 Revisions Day
October 1 Begin cel animations	2	3	4 Animation cycles due	5 Begin Photography
8	9 Photography Due	10 Begin Post-Production Project due on 10/16	11	12
15	16 Unit 2 Project Due Unit 2 Post Assessment	17 Presentation Day	18 Presentation Day	19 Intro to Unit 3: Intro to Media History Unit 3 Pre-Assessment
22 Research Project Begins (due 10/31)	23	24	25 NO SCHOOL FALL BREAK	26 NO SCHOOL FALL BREAK
29 Research Projects due Viewing Shrek	30 Viewing Shrek	31 Viewing Shrek	November 1 Writing a Film Review (due on 11/8)	2
5	6	7	8 Film Review Due Unit 3 Post-Assessment	9 Presentation Day for Research Projects (science fair style)
12 NO SCHOOL	13 Intro to Unit 4: Fracturing a Fairytale Unit 4 Pre-Assessment	14 Character Dev. Project	15	16
19	20 Character Project Due	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL
26 Revisions Day	27 Setting Project Screenplay/Story Development Project	28	29	30
December 3 Setting and Screenplay projects due	4 Production Week 'filming' of animations are due on 12/11	5	6	7 First Friday – Teasers from our class will be shared tonight
10	11 Post-Production Week Final Projects due 12/17	12	13	14
17 Final Claymation Animations due	18 Presentations	19 Presentations Unit 4 Post Assessment and self-reflection	20 DMA 1 Post Assessment	21 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Note: calendar is a draft and is subject to change, revisions and final due dates will be posted on the class web page.

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August 2012

Parents/Guardians,

Good communication between teachers, students and parents is essential to the success of all students in middle and high school. Your student received a syllabus and course outline today. Attached you will find a copy of that information and a draft calendar of the due dates for this class. Please take a moment to review the course with your child and complete the acknowledgement and parent contact form and return to me via your student. This will be counted as your student's first homework assignment. You will also find, below, a parent permission slip which is a general agreement authorizing your student to view a variety of media content in the Digital Media Arts course. Learning about and analyzing film, television and print media is an important part of this class. We will have a series of 'Media Days' where students will watch a variety of film genres, review television content and also print media, and we may occasionally view and discuss an edited portion of film or other media rated from G to PG-13. If you prefer your child NOT participate in a particular showing I will arrange for them to attend a study hall, or be placed in another classroom. As often as possible your student will be notified, in advance, of the content and will be expected to share that information with you. I will also send a notification using Infinite Campus' Parent Messenger system whenever possible. Students who do not participate in these sessions will not be penalized, but will be asked to complete an alternative assignment. Film, television and print media are a culturally important and relevant part of our lives. Learning to analyze and think critically about moving and print media will improve your student's ability to read, transfer and generate ideas and understand society.

I will communicate with you about your student's progress via progress reports (approx. every 6 weeks), Parent Portal and classroom updates via Campus Messenger and my website, and encourage you to check Parent Portal and the web site regularly, or contact me with **questions, comments or recommendations at any time**. Together, we will ensure your student is college and career ready at graduation.

Best Regards,

Cori Loehr, Digital Media Arts Instructor

Contact Information

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Please clip and retain this portion for your records

Please clip and have your student return this portion by 9/7/12 for 5 points

Parent/Guardian Contact Information and General Media Release

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Email Address: _____

The following is the best way to reach me during school hours: ☐ Email ☐ Home Phone ☐ Work Phone

How does your child get home from school? *(This is helpful for me to know the best times to have students complete make-up work, detentions if necessary, or help with after activities and OutSide opportunities.)*

☐ Bus ☐ Walks Home ☐ Parent Picks Up ☐ Other (carpool, boys and girls club, etc.)

☐ Yes, I authorize my student to view the content in the Digital Media Course. I understand that this is a general release, and that I will not receive individual permission slips for each film, television or print media my student may view in class. I understand it is my student's responsibility to communicate content to me, and should I decide I prefer my child not participate I will contact the classroom teacher prior to the viewing.

☐ No, I prefer my child not participate in these sessions. I understand that my student will miss content relevant to the instruction/learning of the class, but that they will be provided with an alternative assignment and their grade will not be penalized for missing the sessions.

Parent Signature

Date