

# Ceramics 1

Dixon 2015-2016

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to Ceramics 1! I am happy to have you as my student and am looking forward to a great year together. This class is an exploratory course designed for beginners and fulfills the UC and Cal State requirements. No prerequisites, prior art knowledge or skills required, just an open mind and willingness to participate.

Class projects will expose students to handbuilding methods, wheel throwing, and surface treatments (glaze, stain and decorative techniques). Students will be expected to produce ceramic forms using the following methods: Slab, Pinch, Drape/Mold, Wheel Throwing and Basic Sculpture. **Students will help with clay recycling as the year goes on, amongst other responsibilities in the studio.** A vocabulary of art terms and principles will be taught and used throughout the course. Written assignments will be given, analyzing a variety of selected works and exploring aesthetic questions. Class critiques and self-evaluations will occur often.

All brainstorming, research, and sketches in preparation for assignments will be kept in an organized sketchbook. These will be checked periodically to ensure students are on track and working at the best of their ability. In addition, each week students will be assigned a **"Creative Challenge"**. The Creative Challenges are weekly homework assignments to be completed in students' sketchbooks and are designed to stimulate the imagination and refine artistic skills. CC's will be introduced every Monday and will be due the following Friday. They are to be completed outside of class, unless a student finishes early with a project or is waiting for their work to dry, then the CC should be worked on in class. Students should always be working on something art related in this class. **An hour minimum** should be spent each week on the CC. Although each is only worth 10 points, it is crucial that students keep up with these assignments, because the points add up quickly!

Students will be required to attend an art gallery/museum before the conclusion of the first semester and do a critique on the current show (save your ticket stub!). In addition, students are expected to enter their work in at least one art show during the year. The school offers several opportunities to do so.

## GRADING

**Projects 70% Participation 30%**

All projects, tests, CCs (homework), and class participation will be graded on a point system. **Students will be expected to turn in projects on the given due date.** Points will be deducted for late work (one letter grade per day late), uncooperative behavior, and lack of effort. Due dates for each project will be posted in the classroom, and there is ample time for students to complete work. To achieve the maximum number of points for each project the student will:

- Put forth his/her best effort
- Plan each project
- Strive for original ideas on projects, BE CREATIVE and inventive
- Be on task every day
- Demonstrate refined craftsmanship by following directions and working carefully
- Clean up work space thoroughly
- Cooperate with teacher and classmates
- Turn work in on time, come to class on time, and keep absences to a minimum

## PARTICIPATION & CLEAN UP

Students receive two points per day for participation. If they choose not to work or clean up, points for the day will be lost. **Working on homework from other classes or playing games on electronic devices is**

**unacceptable** and will result in detention after more than one warning. If you are caught throwing clay you will receive detention and be required to write a one-page paper discussing the importance of a clean workspace. Being caught a second time will result in a referral and possible removal from the class.

Each of the six tables will be assigned an area of the ceramics room to clean and be responsible for each week. Table groups who do not do an efficient job will have points taken away from their group. Groups that do an exceptional job will be rewarded points. At the end of each quarter, the table group with the most points will choose a special treat to have during lunch (for example, pizza or donuts).

### MATERIALS

Students should purchase a sketchbook (preferably around 8"x 11", available at Aaron Brothers, Michaels, and Target). If any student cannot obtain one, please notify me and accommodations will be made. A towel or apron is also recommended during wheel throwing.

### PARENT SUPPORT

Please feel free to reach out to me at anytime with questions or concerns! My planning period is first period. The best way to contact me is through email: [adixon@manhattan.k12.ca.us](mailto:adixon@manhattan.k12.ca.us) Our class website will be up and running very shortly!



**(Cut along line below & return to class by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Signed syllabus is worth 10 points!)**

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### REQUESTED

**\*A lab donation of \$50.00 to help cover the costs of clay, tools and glaze- payable to MCHS.** Each year we are given a third of what it costs to run our ceramic program effectively. We rely on your generous donations to help provide each student a well rounded ceramic experience. *Thank you for your support of the arts!* \* No student will be denied access to school materials.

I have read, understand, and agree to the above course description.

**STUDENT NAME (PRINT)** \_\_\_\_\_ **PERIOD** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_