

West Linn–Wilsonville School District

The Arts – Course Statement

Course Title: Clay and Animation I

Length of Course: Semester
Number of Credits: 1
Grade Level: 9, 10, 11, 12
Prerequisites: None
CIM Work Samples
Offered in Course: Speaking work sample

Date of Description/Revision: July 2006

Course Overview

This course will combine three-dimensional art techniques with the additional element of animation. Students will learn about developing a storyline, creating interesting characters, developing a storyboard, creating believable movement, creating sets and props, and developing characters made from non-hardening clay. This class will involve planning, writing, group coordination, problem solving, and creativity in order to bring the idea to life using this versatile medium. The finished product will consist of videos complete with audio (voiceover and sound effects) as well as music.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What is art?
- How do I know what “good” art is?
- Why do we create?
- What do I find beautiful?
- What is an Artist?
- What makes a good story?
- How do artists come up with ideas?
- How can I best use materials and the elements and principles of design to visually depict my ideas?
- How do people and animals move?

Proficiency Statements

Upon completion of course, students will be able to:

- Create clay characters that show emotion, move realistically, and ‘talk’ believably.
- Create storylines that are interesting, non-violent, and are humorous or thought-provoking.
- Work in a group using cooperation and problem solving skills.
- Bring their storyline to life using technology and knowledge of how people and animals move.
- Add music, voiceovers, sound effects, transitions, and graphics which help to tell the story.

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- Evaluate how the popular media are used to tell a story.
- Evaluate what type of movies, television shows, and books they like best and why.
- Use Video Lunchbox, VCRs, cameras, computers, and editing programs.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their own work and the works of others using critique skills.

General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
A. Introduction to use of Video Lunchbox, Camera, VCR	1 week
B. Facial Expressions Assignment	1 ½ weeks
C. Talking Head Assignment	1 ½ weeks
D. Walking Assignment	1 ½ weeks
E. Idea Book Assignments – What makes a good story?	Ongoing
• Identify books, etc. you like and analyze storylines	
• Create your own storyline	
• Character sketches and analyses	
F. Write Group Storyline	1 week
G. Group Character Sketches/Analyses	1 week
H. Set Designs/Storyboards	1 ½ weeks
I. Work on Final Movie – Creating props, characters, sets; filming and editing	9 weeks
Resources	
• Video: <i>Chicken Run</i> , Directors: Nick Parks and Peter Lord, VHS, Dreamworks Video, 2000.	
• Video: Other Nick Parks Films	
• Video: Will Vinton Studios	
• Text: Various animation books and periodicals	