VA Comp is a year-long course offered to talented Visual Arts students in 8th grade. Upon completion of the course requirements, including the digital portfolio, students have an opportunity to earn an art high school course credit, enabling students to advance to higher level courses starting in 9th grade.

**8th Grade VA COMP Course For High School Credit at Lost Mountain M.S. Syllabus/Handbook**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Breakdown | | |
| Percent | **Georgia Performance Standard Strand** | **Examples of what may be graded in each strand** |
| 45% | Production | Main projects/ Summative Projects |
| 20% | Meaning and Creative Thinking | Sketchbooks/ Visual Journals/ Planning Documents & Sketches |
| 20% | Contextual Understanding &  Assessment/ Reflection | Art History Assignments/ Opening Slides &  Critiques/ Self Assessment/ Aesthetic Responses |
| 15% | Connections | Connections with other areas/ Art Careers/ Life Skills |

**GRADING CATEGORIES and WEIGHT:**

8th Grade VA Comp will align its categories with the Visual Arts Standards, which are divided into 5 strands.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**:

VA COMP is a year-long course with an emphasis on fundamental art skills.  This course is designed to prepare the student for more advanced studies of art at the high school level. Correct completion of all required components will result in receipt of high school credit for VA COMP, a prerequisite course for all advanced visual arts classes. Students receiving high school credit will be able to enroll directly in studio courses at the start of their freshman year.

Course website: <http://lostmountainart.weebly.com>

Mrs. Denison’s email:     [Julie.Denison@cobbk12.org](mailto:Julie.Denison@cobbk12.org)

Follow me on twitter @denison\_julie to get see the exciting work we will be doing in class!

**REQUIRED COMPONENTS FOR H.S. CREDIT**:

* Maintain a **sketchbook/journal outside of class** as well as during class.
* Student created and maintained **DIGITAL PORTFOLIO** demonstrating student’s technical and expressive skills in a variety of media
* Participation in **4 Common Core performance tasks** (1 per 9 week quarter). These tasks will be submitted online and be assessed at the county-level.

**EXTRA SUPPORT/TUTORING**:

Depending on the pace at which each student works, some students may need extra time to complete assignments for some projects.  As students need more time, a morning work studio session will be identified.

**Make-up Expectations/ Reassessment:**

It is the student’s responsibility to be prompt and prepared for class each day, to work within the rules and guidelines of the classroom, to complete all assignments, to make-up any work missed due to absence. Make-up work will be dealt with on an individual basis depending on duration of absence from class. Most work can be made up in the mornings from 8:15 – 8:45 a.m. If students need to do-over a particular production assignment to be reassessed, they may for full credit. However, they must turn in that reassessment project within one week of receiving their production grade.

**GRADING POLICY:**

  All grades will be numeric.  The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90 and above

  B = 80 – 89

  C = 74 – 79

  D = 70 – 73

  F = 69 and below

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

 Each student is required to have the following supplies. They must have these materials with them every day to receive full credit for Classwork and Sketchbook assignments:

1. **Sketchbook (sizes could range between 8 x10 and 9x12)**
2. **An old hardback book with at least 60 pages (will be turned into an altered book)**
3. **Black Sharpie (fine tip and ultra fine tip)**
4. **Wooden pencil**
5. **Large White Eraser**
6. **Large Glue Stick**

**Class Wish-List:**

If you have any extra of the following that you would like to donate to our class, it would be GREATLY appreciated:

·      Sharpies (any color, any size)

·      Fabric scraps/yarn/sewing items

·      Scrap wood or building blocks

·      Altoid Tins (or similar tins)

·      Old mechanical items for disassembly, with gears preferred

·      Fake flowers or other greenery

·      Masking Tape

·      Knick-knack objects, small found objects like gumball machine items

·      Interesting objects for still life- chair, picture frames, iron, radio, old cameras, etc.

·      Kleenex

**CONTACT:**

The BEST way to contact Mrs. Denison is by email:  [Julie.Denison@cobbk12.org](mailto:Kacie.kamins@cobbk12.org)