

STANDARDS, BENCHMARKS, AND LEARNING TARGETS

Although the Missoula County Public Schools' Visual Arts curriculum was developed to assure that students meet the Montana Standards for the Arts (below) at the appropriate grade levels, MCPS Visual Arts learning targets were written based on the National Standards for the Arts, which specifically address K-12 Visual Arts education.

Montana Standards and Benchmarks for the Arts: Grades K-4

MONTANA ART STANDARD 1: Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts. Students identify their own ideas and images based on themes, symbols, events, and personal experiences.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use a variety of materials and sources to experiment with an art form.
- 2) Students present their own work and works of others.
- 3) Students collaborate with others in the creative process.
- 4) Students describe how a variety of materials, techniques, and processes cause different responses.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 2: Students apply and describe the concepts, structures, and processes in the Arts.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students apply the elements of line, shape, form, color, space, value, and texture to compose works of art and the principles of design-pattern, balance, contrast, rhythm, proportion, economy, movement, dominance.
- 2) Students identify and apply the techniques common to drawing, painting, sculpture, design, printmaking, and indigenous/traditional arts.
- 3) Students select a course of action using two-dimensional processes (e.g., painting, drawing, printmaking) and the three-dimensional processes (e.g., sculpture and indigenous/traditional arts).
- 4) Students identify examples of cultural, political, communication, expressive, commercial, and environmental visual arts.
- 5) Student identify examples of historical, contemporary, and traditional visual arts, including American Indian art.
- 6) Student exhibit craftsmanship, completion, and develop a body of work.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 3: Students develop and refine arts skills and techniques to express ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use art materials, techniques, technologies, and processes to create general responses.
- 2) Students communicate meaning through the art forms from selected subject matter.
- 3) Students explore potential solutions to a given problem through the Arts.
- 4) Students create works of art with content that is consistent with media possibilities.
- 5) Students recognize and use symbol language appropriate to media used to create works of art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 4: Students analyze characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use vocabulary of the discipline to describe a variety of works of art.
- 2) Students describe personal works to others.
- 3) Students devise criteria for evaluation.
- 4) Students recognize a variety of different responses to specific works of art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 5: Students understand the role of the Arts in society, diverse cultures, and historical periods.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students recognize ways in which the Arts have both an historical and distinctive relationship to various cultures (e.g., American Indian) and media of expression.
- 2) Students identify and describe specific works of art belonging to particular cultures, times, and places.
- 3) Students recognize various reasons for creating works of art.
- 4) Students recognize common emotions, experiences, and expressions in art.
- 5) Students demonstrate appropriate audience behavior for the context and style of art presented.
- 6) Students explore their own culture as reflected through the Arts.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 6: Students make connections among the Arts, other subject areas, life, and work.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students identify similarities and differences in the meanings of common terms/elements used in the various Arts.
- 2) Students identify interrelated elements among the Arts and other subject areas.
- 3) Students identify the role of the Arts in the world of work.
- 4) Students identify how art reflects life.