

Curriculum Development  
In the Fairfield Public Schools

**FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

# **INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY**

Board of Education Approved 03/27/2007

# INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOGRAPHY

## Statement of Purpose

Through the visual arts, students can explore personal expression and technical skills which will allow them a new understanding and new reflections on their own art and process and how it relates to the world in which we live.

Since its beginnings, photography has served as a link to history. In this introductory course students will learn the basic operation of the camera, through the use of black and white film. They will also learn film developing and darkroom techniques. Students will solve visual problems using photography.

## Audience

Grades 10, 11, 12

## Prerequisites

Foundations of Art -waived for seniors

## Design and Description

This course in black and white photography is designed for beginning photographers who want to learn how to use a 35mm camera, develop film, and print pictures. This course includes light control, depth of field, action, and composition. **Students are required to have a 35mm SLR camera.** Instamatic, automatic cameras and digital cameras are not acceptable. The school provides chemicals for processing and printing (students should be prepared to spend \$35 to \$45 for additional supplies, i.e. paper and film).

## Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- understand the modes and functions of an SLR camera.
- research the history of the photographic image.
- recognize emulsion side of photo paper.
- understand the use of enlargers in the photo making process.
- recognize interesting image.
- recognize non-traditional subject matter.
- identify work of master photographers.
- analyze and Critique historical and contemporary photographs.
- find common characteristics between historical references and their own work.
- recognize ethnic and cultural differences through analyzation of photos.

## Skill Objectives

Students will:

- focus a camera.
- control exposure.
- control f-stop and shutter speed.
- rewind and remove film from camera.

- load film and put into canisters in total darkness.
- process film using developing chemicals.
- dry film using drying cabinet.
- cut negatives appropriately to fit in negative sleeve.
- manipulate enlarger.
- place negative in negative holder.
- place paper in easel.
- make a contact sheet, test strip and finished print.
- use darkroom equipment and chemicals.
- use light and value as a compositional elements.
- use viewfinder to frame image.
- create images which include emotional content.
- answer questions based on research and analysis of the work of master photographers.

## **Visual Arts Standards**

### ***Media***

**Students will understand, select and apply media, techniques and processes.**

Students will apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are realized.

Students will conceive and create original works of art that demonstrate a connection between personal expression and the intentional use of art materials, techniques and processes.

### ***Elements and Principles***

**Students will understand and apply elements and organizational principles of art.**

Students will judge the effectiveness of different ways of using visual characteristics in conveying ideas.

### ***Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation***

**Students will reflect upon, describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate their own and others' work.**

Students will research and analyze historic meaning and purpose in varied works of art.

Students will apply critical and aesthetic criteria for the purpose of improving their own works of art. (e.g., technique, formal and expressive qualities, content)

### ***Connections***

**Students will make connections between the visual arts, other disciplines and daily life.**

Students will analyze and compare characteristics of the visual arts within a particular historical period or style with ideas, issues or themes of that period or style.

### **Information and Technology Standards (to be added)**

#### **Essential Questions**

- How do you use an SLR Camera?
- How do you process film?
- How do you use the darkroom to make a photographic print?
- What makes a good photograph?
- What is the historical impact of Photography as an art form?

#### **Focus Questions**

- What are the controls on the camera that control the amount of light entering?
- How does the camera allow light to enter?
- What are the parts of the camera and what are their functions?
- What does film speed mean?
- How does film speed impact quality?
- What chemicals are used to develop film?
- How does an enlarger work?
- What chemicals are used in the darkroom?
- Why is it necessary for the darkroom to be dark?
- What is the purpose of a critique?
- What are the characteristics of a powerful photograph?
- How has photography since its inception helped to document history?
- What is inspirational about studying the work of other photographers?
- How do photographers educate us about different cultures as well as our environment?

# **UNITS OF INSTRUCTION**

## **Unit 1: Camera Function**

### **Visual Arts Standards**

#### *Elements and Principles*

**Students will understand and apply elements and organizational principles of art.**

Students will judge the effectiveness of different ways of using visual characteristics in conveying ideas.

### **Essential Question**

- How do you use an SLR Camera?

### **Focus Questions**

- What are the controls on the camera that control the amount of light entering?
- How does the camera allow light to enter?
- What are the parts of the camera and what are their functions?

### **Core Topics**

- Camera Manipulation
- Framing
- Depth of Field
- Capturing Action
- Backlighting/Silhouette

### **Unit Objective**

Students will be able to:

- understand the modes and functions of an SLR camera.

### **Skill Objectives**

Students will:

- focus a camera.
- control exposure.
- control f-stop and shutter speed.

### **Sample Assessments**

- Take light meter reading off of subject while manipulating F-stop and SSspeed
- Focus on subject
- Load, rewind and unload film
- Change lens

### **Pacing**

4 weeks

## Unit 2: Processing Film

### Visual Arts Standards

#### *Media*

**Students will understand, select and apply media, techniques and processes.**

Students will apply media, techniques and processes with sufficient skill, confidence and sensitivity that their intentions are realized.

### Essential Question

- How do you process film?

### Focus Questions

- What does film speed mean?
- How does film speed impact quality?
- What chemicals are used to develop film?

### Core Topics

- Types of film
- Film loading
- Film processing
- Film storage

### Unit Objective

Students will be able to:

- research the history of the photographic image.

### Skill Objectives

Students will:

- rewind and remove film from camera.
- load film and put into canisters in total darkness.
- process film using developing chemicals.
- dry film using drying cabinet.
- cut negatives appropriately to fit in negative sleeve.

### Sample Assessments

- Film removal and rewinding
- Processing film
- Critiquing Negatives

### Pacing

4 weeks

## Unit 3: Darkroom Basics

### Visual Arts Standards

#### *Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation*

**Students will reflect upon, describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate their own and others' work.**

Students will apply critical and aesthetic criteria for the purpose of improving their own works of art. (e.g., technique, formal and expressive qualities, content)

#### *Media*

**Students will understand, select and apply media, techniques and processes.**

Students will conceive and create original works of art that demonstrate a connection between personal expression and the intentional use of art materials, techniques and processes.

### Essential Question

- How do you use the darkroom to make a photographic print?

### Focus Questions

- How does an enlarger work?
- What chemicals are used in the darkroom?
- Why is it necessary for the darkroom to be dark?

### Core Topics

- Enlarger Use
- Composition
- Photographic Manipulation
- Chemical Processing

### Unit Objectives

Students will be able to:

- recognize emulsion side of photo paper.
- understand the use of enlargers in the photo making process.

### Skill Objectives

Students will:

- manipulate enlarger.
- place negative in negative holder.
- place paper in easel.
- make a contact sheet, test strip and finished print.
- use darkroom equipment and chemicals.

### **Sample Assessments**

- Test Strip
- Contact Sheet
- Photographic Print

### **Pacing**

4 weeks



## **Unit 4: Observation and Design**

### **Visual Arts Standards**

#### *Analysis, Interpretation and Evaluation*

**Students will reflect upon, describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate their own and others' work.**

Students will research and analyze historic meaning and purpose in varied works of art.

### **Essential Question**

- What makes a good photograph?

### **Focus Questions**

- What is the purpose of a critique?
- What are the characteristics of a powerful photograph?

### **Core Topics**

- Value
- Creativity
- Composition
- Contrast
- Cleanliness
- Framing

### **Unit Objectives**

Student will be able to:

- recognize interesting image.
- recognize non-traditional subject matter.

### **Skill Objectives**

Students will:

- use light and value as a compositional elements.
- use viewfinder to frame image.
- create images which include emotional content.

### **Sample Assessments**

- Photo grams
- Birds Eye Worms Eye
- Letters in Nature
- Trickery
- Action Photos
- Depth of Field Photos

### **Pacing**

3 weeks

## **Unit 5: History of Photography**

### **Visual Arts Standards**

#### ***Connections***

**Students will make connections between the visual arts, other disciplines and daily life.**

Students will analyze and compare characteristics of the visual arts within a particular historical period or style with ideas, issues or themes of that period or style.

#### **Essential Question**

- What is the historical impact of Photography as an art form?

#### **Focus Questions**

- How has photography since its inception helped to document history?
- What is inspirational about studying the work of other photographers?
- How do photographers educate us about different cultures as well as our environment?

#### **Core Topics**

- Critique
- Photo analysis
- Identification

#### **Unit Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- identify work of master photographers.
- analyze and Critique historical and contemporary photographs.
- find common characteristics between historical references and their own work.
- recognize ethnic and cultural differences through analyzation of photos.

#### **Skill Objective**

Students will:

- answer questions based on research and analysis of the work of master photographers.

#### **Sample Assessments**

- Photo History Reports
- Group Critiques
- Independent Assessment sheets
- View and critique relevant films and videos about photography
- Mid term, Final Exams and quizzes

#### **Pacing**

3 weeks