

PETERS TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
CORE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE (CBK)
CERAMICS HONORS
GRADES 11-12

For each of the sections that follow, students may be required to analyze, recall, explain, interpret, apply, or evaluate the particular concepts being taught.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Ceramics Honors course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of ceramic art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. Students will experience a variety of concepts, techniques and approaches for the wheel as well as hand building, designed to help them demonstrate their abilities as well as their versatility with techniques, problem solving, and ideation. Ceramics Honors is a college level course designed to provide the student with an in-depth look into different media and techniques in an open environment.

STUDY SKILLS

- Participation/attendance in lectures, demonstrations as well as course work.
- Evidence of pre-planning.
- Deadline management.
- Strong independent work ethic.
- Strong development of artistic voice/creativity.

MAJOR UNIT THEMES

1. THE NATURE OF CLAY AND THE CERAMIC PROCESS

- Defend an aesthetic judgment about a ceramic piece.
- Describe the steps in ceramic production using appropriate terminology and identify and describe the functions of clay tools and equipment.
- Explain the molecular structure (physical properties) of clay and glazes.
- Display care in the handling, use and clean up of clay, tools and work areas in the studio.
- Describe and demonstrate the wedging process and explain its function.
- Demonstrate ways to recycle clay to make the best use of clay inventory.
- Develop critical and creative thinking skills.
- Use and develop vocabulary in reference to process and aesthetics.

2. SCULPTURE

- Demonstrate the ability to think in three dimensions.
- Explain the difference between two-dimensional and three-dimensional art.
- Produce a three dimensional object from a two dimensional concept.
- Apply critical thinking skills in completion of sculpture.
- Develop a familiarity with the tools used to work with clay/plaster.
- Develop skills necessary to build freestanding three-dimensional sculptures.

3. HAND BUILDING

- Describe the process of various clay forming methods and create clay objects with joints that will withstand two firings without signs of separation or cracking.
- Analyze the historical and cultural significance as it relates to pinch, slab and coil method of hand building.
- Demonstrate knowledge of pinch, slab and coil as hand built art forms by producing each construction.
- Demonstrate knowledge of all hand building techniques by combining two or more techniques in the construction of a combination form.
- Demonstrate proficiency using each of the basic hand-building processes including modeling, pinching, coiling and slab construction.
- Enhance general hand built construction skill set which will allow students to create a variety of objects.
- Apply the use of molds and texture stamps.

4. WHEEL THROWN

- Define and explain the function of the potter's wheel.
- Describe the process and sequence of clay preparation and movements necessary to throw a variety of shapes on the potter's wheel and practice on the potter's wheel.
- Demonstrate knowledge of wheel throwing techniques by making a minimum of four finished series of tableware on the wheel.
- Describe the method and purpose for trimming unfinished thrown pottery and perform the trimming process using correct movements and sequence.
- Enhance throwing skills using the potter's wheel in ceramic construction.
- Develop a better understanding of wheel throwing methods: centering, opening, widening, raising, shaping, trimming, and footing.
- Combine wheel-thrown and hand-built objects to create one unified piece.
- Explain how the wheel can be used to create a variety of forms.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the production and connection of multiple wheel thrown forms.
- Demonstrate proficient skill in handle pulling and lid throwing utilizing negative/positive spatial relationships to proportion the handle to the body and craftsmanship of handle attachment.
- Analyze traditional wheel processes and how they influence modern techniques.
- Explain how the potter's wheel has evolved throughout history.

5. DECORATIVE AND FIRING TECHNIQUES

- Describe the nature and function of underglazes and use them properly to decorate pottery.
- Describe and define the formulation and function of low/high fire glazes and use them properly to decorate pottery.

- Describe the process of kiln firing at different cone temperatures and understand how maturation temperature plays a role in glazing.
- Demonstrate proper loading and unloading of kiln.
- Demonstrate glaze application to bisqueware be it by dip or brush method.
- Apply knowledge of firing techniques to Raku fire.

6. CRAFTSMANSHIP, AESTHETICS AND THE ARTISTIC HERITAGE

- Recall and explain the origin and basic evolution of ceramics as a utilitarian craft and art form.
- Apply the terminology and criteria commonly used to describe, analyze, interpret and judge ceramic art.
- Explain the historical, cultural, and social context of an individual work.
- Relate and analyze a work of art from its historical and cultural perspective in order to gain an understanding of how ceramic artifacts relate to cultures and represent a culture's artistic values.

7. HONORS PORTFOLIO

- The students will be required to develop a portfolio for college preparation, scholarship acquisition, competitions and shows.
- Students will be taught how to display art and will be responsible for installation of certain exhibitions.
- Students will research artists of influence in depth and write critically about the artist's body of work and how it relates to their own.
- Students will keep a visual and written journal that will be submitted to the teacher on a weekly basis.
- Some lessons will be student generated to encourage the student's unique style; other group lessons will be enriched and tailored towards the needs of that student.
- Students will develop a college level mastery of art techniques and hone 21st century skills through technology and innovation.
- Students will receive a weighted grade and an honors course on their transcript will be helpful in sending them to the school of their choice.

MATERIALS:

- *Ceramics Arts Monthly* Magazine.
- *Pottery Illustrated* Magazine.
- Assorted visual references (posters, teacher/student examples).
- Assorted Internet sites.
- Assorted You Tube channels.
- Visiting artist lectures, museum/gallery visits.
- Optional workshops and internship experiences.