

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

- **Create at least a drawing a week: a total of 10 finished works.**
- Use your sketchbook to keep up on your drawing and observation skills.
- Please don't wait until the week before we get back – keep up on it all summer. This will take adopting the habit of drawing regularly.
- Below are ideas for working within your sketchbook, and examples of drawing projects. If you have your own ideas, please explore those ideas. Look at art in books and galleries. In these projects, push yourself beyond just what you are comfortable drawing by challenging yourself.

Ways to work in your sketchbook:

- Use pencils, pens, crayons, sticks, charcoal, burnt matches, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, pine straw, fingers, basically anything that will make a mark. You have the power to make a mark.
- Draw what you SEE in the world. No drawings from published images (plagiarism) or personal photographs. You need to learn to draw from observation, creating your own compositions and seeing the division of space, background and foreground and lighting.
- Use different styles of drawing, gesture, line, and value (shading) in your drawings. Try to create a sense of light and atmosphere, and a feeling of depth in your images (foreground, middle ground, and background).
- Use the principles of perspective to show depth in a drawing. Overlapping, positioning, linear perspective (1 point, 2 point, etc.)
- Express yourself! Work to develop mastery in concept, composition, and execution of your ideas.
- Make decisions about what you do based on how things look visually. Work toward a Big Idea – a statement about the subject. Then build a focal point that makes that statement. Do not be trite; say something.
- Go to art galleries in town – make that part of your trip to town. Stop at museums while traveling with family and friends. Look at lots of art in books and on line. Read about it, get interested and familiar with styles you respond to, and try to explain to yourself why you like one style or genre of art.

Example of drawing projects you can try:

These are provided as a starting point, as ideas for projects. It's important that YOU come up with ideas for drawings, because a large part of producing a high quality AP Portfolio is that you become an independent, self-starting artist with your own ideas.

- **Look for images and composition within your immediate life.** Draw your bedroom window and what's outside the window, the back yard, a tabletop scene, or a detail on a shelf full of objects. Fill the page with the composition.
- **Use value to define the different spaces.** Work on positive and negative space.

- **Select a work by a famous artist.** Paste a copy of the work in your sketchbook. Make three studies of the work. Make a drawing using only line. Make one showing only the values (no line). Make another showing only the colors (crayon, colored pencil, marker).
- **Practice drawing with graphite.** Draw a bowl of fruit. Use the whole page. Do not leave any white showing, except highlights. Experiment with line and value.
- **Glue found images and things into your sketchbook,** i.e., ticket stubs, gum wrappers, tin foil, lace, lists, receipts, sand, leaves, twigs, pebbles, shells, earrings, shoelaces, whatever. Make a collage with the stuff. Add these things to pages that you started but don't like. Let your imagination go wild.
- **Take a news story and interpret it visually,** use abstraction to express an idea.
- **Play around with geometric and organic forms, interlocking and overlapping to create an interesting composition.** Use color to finish the work. Look at a realistic subject, and re-interpret it this way by breaking it down into its basic shapes and values.
- **Create a self-portrait using distortion,** or Cubism, or Impressionism, or Minimalism, or Pop Art. Maybe one of each. Let the image morph and evolve from one style to the other.
- **Make at least 50 small, quick gesture studies from observations of figures, portraits, animals, and/or children.** (Sounds like a lot, but that's only five sessions with ten quick studies per session. And it's possible for you to do 4-8 small gesture sketches on a page of your sketchbook.)
- **Create a series of images, a storyboard, or sequential work.** Think about time passing, a scene changing, or a story unfolding. A moment changing...it can be simple or complex; involve a long time or a very short time.