



Art Education is more than just learning to appreciate the work of the “grand masters.” Art also serves to develop many important skills we all use in our daily lives. Motor skills are developed through the various motions used in creating art. Language develops as students use new words for colors, shapes, and actions, and descriptive language to communicate about art. Decision making skills develop as students explore and experiment with different mediums and tools to create desired effects.

Through observation, students enhance their knowledge of the world by taking in and evaluating visual cues. By expressing themselves in their artwork, students are encouraged to take risks and try new things. Cultural awareness increases as students study the works, styles, and techniques of various artists and art genres, as well as gathering information of the culture, society, and times depicted in the artwork.

Through our Art curriculum at Al-Bayan Bilingual School, we endeavor to cultivate more well-rounded students who not only create their own art, but appreciate the talents of established artists as well as the talents of themselves and their classmates.

Summary of the Art Curriculum

Pre-School (Pre-Nursery – KG2)

In Pre-School, students explore, play with, and apply the basics of the elements of art and the principles of design. They discover and realize that these are everywhere and in everything in their environment. Students begin to understand how artists use the elements and the principles in their artwork, and they also begin to identify and / or use these in their own art creations as well as in their classmates’ .

Elementary (Grades 1-5):

At the end of Elementary School, students will have examined and analyzed the elements of art and the principles of design in professional works of art, in their own and their classmates’ art, and as they are found naturally in the world around them. They will have explored and applied these same elements and principles in their own artistic creations.

Middle School (Grades 6-8)

At the end of Middle School, students will have more closely examined and analyzed the elements of art and the principles of design in many forms of art. They will have learned to decide which mediums, tools, and techniques will best communicate their ideas as they use combinations of the elements of art and the principles of design in their own artistic creations. Middle School students will also learn to critique artwork in an unbiased manner, based on the use of the elements and principles, to justify their opinions. More focus will be put on art through the lenses of history and culture.

High School (Grades 9-12)

By the end of High School, art students would have expanded their knowledge of and work with elements of art in conjunction with the principles of design developed in the Elementary and Middle Schools. Students will have delved more deeply into the art and the artists of different cultures and different times and will have learned to view art as a reflection of cultural ideas, beliefs, and social conditions. Through the art courses, students will have developed their visual literacy and will have learned to perceive and respond to the world around them with increased awareness and judgment. High School Art at BBS will continue to encourage both creative and critical thinking, and through these, students will become self-confident, self-governing, and willing to explore their own beliefs and express them through their artistic creations.

Standards and Benchmarks

Grades KG – 5

Standard 1: Art is the ability to create work which perceives, interprets, and responds to ideas, experiences, and the environment

- 1.1 Artists seek to explore, identify, and represent observed form through the use of the elements and principles of art and design
- 1.2 Artists explore, identify, and compare ways selected artwork represent what people see, feel, know, and imagine
- 1.3 The elements of art and the principles of design are used to create personally meaningful compositions

Standard 2: The Visual Arts helps us understand that art is an essential aspect of history and human experience

- 2.1 Works of art express ideas about oneself, other people, places, and events
- 2.2 We understand why people create and use art by studying their artwork and other sources of information
- 2.3 Different art forms, styles, and techniques from the past and the present provide an understanding of the artist's social and cultural context

Standard 3: Art work is governed by the elements of art and the principles of design, and artists explore and manipulate them in various ways to create personal works of art

- 3.1 Artists employ various materials and processes in creating kinds of art
- 3.2 To create artwork, one needs to explore images and forms from observation, memory, and/or imagination
- 3.3 All artwork is guided by the elements of art and the principles of design in myriad combinations

Grades 6 – 12

Standard 1: Visual art communicates ideas and experiences through the purposeful application and manipulation of the elements of art and the principles of design

- 1.1 A variety of artistic media, symbols, and metaphors are used to create work that expresses and communicates ideas and experiences
- 1.2 The elements of art and the principles of design are combined in thoughtful and inventive ways to convey personal meaning
- 1.3 Creating art is one of the oldest, most intimate, and basic forms of communication and cultural expression

Standard 2: Visual Art helps us understand that art is an essential aspect of history and human experience

- 2.1 Throughout history , diverse forms and genres of artwork of enduring quality and/or significance have been created
- 2.2 History and culture have influenced art, and conversely, art has influenced and defined history and culture
- 2.3 Art literate individuals explore, differentiate among , and appreciate artwork and artists from different times and cultures based on subject matter, style, and technique

Standard 3: Visual Art is governed by the elements of art and the principles of design; they are employed when creating art and analyzed and evaluated when critiquing art

- 3.1 The elements of art and the principles of design are purposely combined and applied to express an intended idea
- 3.2 Selection of appropriate tools and materials, combined with skillful techniques and processes, enables us to create the best representation of subject, theme, and concepts
- 3.3 Critical analysis of specific artistic creations, artists, and art movements within varied cultures, times, and places is based on the use of the elements of art and the principles of design