

Photography – Middle School

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. This course introduces students to the basics of photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Define photography.
- Discuss the early history of photography.
- Discuss how cameras work.
- Discuss how to transfer images from a camera to a computer.
- Discuss the basic functions and features of point-and-shoot cameras.
- Discuss some of the common risks to digital cameras.
- Discuss how to care for your camera so that it will continue to work effectively.
- Understand some of the differences between good photographs and great photographs.
- Discuss the purpose of photographs.
- Discuss the elements of art and design.
- Learn about different ways to focus photographs.
- Define and discuss the rule of thirds.
- Understand and use the technique of framing in photographs.
- Discuss portrait and landscape orientations of photographs.
- Define foreground, middleground, and background.
- Learn how framing (from Unit 4) can be used in the foreground of an image.
- Discuss some of the problems that can occur in foregrounds and backgrounds. These problems can affect the quality of a photograph.
- Study some of the techniques and methods that can be used to draw attention to the subject of the photograph.
- Discuss how using the foreground, middleground, and background can add depth to a photograph.
- Discuss the common file types used to save digital images.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages (good and bad points) of different file types.
- Discuss the importance of photo management.

- Discuss common photo-editing functions.
- Discuss how to prepare to photograph a vacation.
- Identify some common vacation photographs.
- Discuss some of the problems that people have when photographing vacations.
- Discuss tips for improving classic vacation photographs.
- Think about how to use these vacation photograph tips in your hometown.
- Identify common problems found in photographs of animals.
- Discuss some tips for taking better animal photographs.
- Discuss how to photograph birds.
- Discuss how to photograph pets.
- Discuss how lighting can affect photographs of people.
- Discuss tips for improving images of people.
- Identify some of the pros and cons of posed and candid photographs.
- Discuss self-portraits and how to create unique self-images.
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- Discuss how cameras work.
- Discuss how to transfer images from a camera to a computer.

PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE LENGTH: One Semester

REQUIRED TEXT: No required textbook for this course.

MATERIALS LIST: Digital Camera

COURSE OUTLINE:

Unit 1: Introduction to Photography

Unit 2: Meeting Your Camera

Unit 3: Choosing a Subject

Unit 4: Elements of Composition

Unit 5: Backgrounds & Foregrounds

Photography Midterm Exam

Unit 6: Managing & Editing Photos

Unit 7: Vacation Photos

Unit 8: The Wild Side

Unit 9: Photographing People

Unit 10: Photographer Etiquette & Display

Photography Final Exam