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Welcome to Ceramics 3! This semester, we will be continuing the progression of technical skills, conceptual ideas, and quality of product that you developed in Ceramics I and II. We will begin to look at clay as a contemporary media for both sculpture and functional work. Three particular concentrations of this course will be varying the scale of your work, combining handbuilding techniques with thrown forms, and studying the work of contemporary ceramic artists as a starting point for developing concepts. As with any course, you will get out of your studies in art what you put into them. By the end of this course, you should develop a body of ceramic work and the terminology to express your ideas in an artist's statement.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will learn alternative techniques from throwing on the wheel. The art of sculptural form will be explored. Some outside class work required. Work will be expected to be of small and large work. Work should start to reflect a certain style and must be crafted in a way that will draw on some historical pieces.

TEXT

1. **HANDOUTS** and resource materials will be required reading for course. Handouts and resource materials must be attached and kept in the sketchbook.
 2. **SKETCHBOOKS** will be provided and used as textbook, workbook, and idea book for this class. *Please continue to use your Ceramics I/II sketchbook.* This is a visual course, so references from books, the internet, and your own drawings will be required for most assignments. Reference materials should be collected in your sketchbook; this will usually be assigned as homework, but additional research may be necessary for certain projects.
 3. **COMMON SENSE** should be checked regularly for resource materials, handouts, and project deadlines.
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EVALUATION

Grades in Ceramics III are based on the following criteria:

Projects – 40%

Criteria for each project will be presented – your products must show effort to meet these criteria. Products must be finished and fired on time.

Research, Homework, & Evaluations – 25%

Homework/sketchbook assignments will typically be presented weekly. These must be submitted on time and indicate effort according to criteria. Most projects will include a written self-evaluation as part of assessment; these also must be submitted on-time and reflect effort according to criteria.

Class Participation – 25%

You must work in the ceramics studio for the entire class period – too much socializing will lower your grade in the course. We will be discussing an appropriate time to meet regularly as a group of Ceramics III students for critiques. Additional extracurricular work time can boost your grade, since the more time you put into your ceramics work, the more your work will improve. You must be on time to class – three or more unexcused latenesses could result in the drop of a whole letter grade. You are expected to actively participate and, as upper-level students, lead during class studio, discussions, demonstrations, and critiques, and to follow the rules of the studio.

Festival Participation – 10%

You must show your work in the Fine Arts Festival, attend the festival, and complete an assessment of the exhibit.

RULES

You will be sharing the ceramic studios at Malvern Prep with **nearly a hundred other ceramic artists**. Out of **respect** to our studio community and to each other, our studio has a set of basic requirements that are very important. The list of rules below is our starting point. We will spend some class time clarifying these rules.

1. Arrive to class prepared, on time, and begin working immediately.

A sketchbook is required for this class, and you must bring it to class each day.

Don't wait to work! 45 minutes is barely enough time to work with clay. After our introduction to the studio at the beginning of the course, I expect that you will get your supplies and begin to work immediately each day. Once everyone has arrived, I have taken attendance, and everyone is ready to work, we will pause for a moment of reflection and a summary of the day's work. You are responsible for homework and project deadlines.

2. RESPECT – safety, self/participation, others, materials, process

Follow all safety guidelines presented in class – and use common sense.

Be fair to yourself – give all projects your best effort, complete sketchbook assignments on-time, participate and pay attention in class. You will be expected to work in collaboration with other artists, and you are expected to give 100% to these team/group activities. Profanity, insults, and language or behavior demonstrating intolerance are unacceptable. A mature level of responsibility is expected at all times.

Please take care of your materials and the studio space. This includes being economical in the use of materials, taking care of both works-in-progress and finished works (yours and others'), and cleaning up. We will be doing cooperative clean-up in this class. This means you may sometimes be cleaning up shared areas of the studio, in order to maintain our space.

Any project work done for other students during this class is considered cheating, and both parties will be subject to the consequences. (Refer to your student handbook.)

Clay is a teacher. Pay attention to what you learn from your successes and challenges with the medium.

3. Listen to directions the first time, and ask questions appropriately when necessary.

4. Suspend your disbelief and TRY! Keep a positive attitude.

We will also review additional **technical guidelines** for ceramic art, which will help you to be successful with your work.



ABSENCE POLICY

One-week notice to the teacher is required if you have a planned absence that does not fall during the scheduled school calendar vacation. Work missed in any class by any student must be made up as directed by his teacher, and it is the student's responsibility to see the teacher immediately upon his return to school for such direction. Assignments must be completed to the teacher's satisfaction within a mutually-agreed time period. Failure to do so constitutes incomplete work and may result in a failing grade for the marking period. No student may graduate or be promoted unless all work is satisfactorily completed.

Success in ceramics depends on daily 'maintenance' of your work – maintaining moisture levels, applying decoration or attachments at specific stages, keeping things wrapped appropriately, and so on. As we progress with projects, I suggest finding a 'backup' peer in your class on whom you can rely to re-wrap, spray, or otherwise maintain your work if you do miss class.

other notes...

- Occasionally, free homework passes may be given for stellar work, studio citizenship, or just because your teacher has a kind heart. Extra credit options will be provided regularly.
- In recognition of the many connections between music and art, our studio is music-friendly. I have an iPod stereo in class, and will consider appropriate music requests from artists who are participating fully in class. We will go over guidelines for use of headphones during our studio introduction.