

Hello, and congratulations on accepting the challenge of AP Studio Art! This course is intensive but rewarding.

In order to complete your portfolio by the spring deadline and receive a passing score, there are a few things you should do over the summer to increase your odds of success. Taking the time to complete this summer assignment will make for a much less stressful school year and make it easier for you to budget your time. **This is not busy work.** If you do the following, you will save yourself at least a month of work and increase your chances of passing!

What is the AP Portfolio?

The portfolio consists of 15 pieces of original art or design work (painting, drawing, photography, digital drawing, etc.) that revolve around your own chosen theme, known as a “concentration” or “investigative approach”. The CB uses these terms interchangeably, but basically it’s an idea or concept you would like to explore in your portfolio. All of your work must center on the development of your chosen idea, and show growth and maturity as you progress. A short, written statement will accompany the slides you submit so that the judges can give context to your work as they view it. Any medium of art is acceptable! It is important to choose a medium that you are skilled with and that allows your idea to develop naturally. For instance, if you have never worked with watercolor before, your portfolio isn’t the right place to start experimenting 😊

How do I get started?

- 1) **First, review the attached list of Concentration Topics.** These are very broad, general topics that are acceptable for your portfolio concentration. You do not have to choose from this list, but they will get your mind thinking about possibilities for topics...
- 2) **Next, view actual portfolio samples of student work on the College Board website.** They post dozens of student portfolios and show you the written statements along with what scores they’ve earned. Passing scores range from 3 to 6. You can look at samples up to 10 years back! Pay attention to the themes chosen by high scoring students. The concepts are thoughtfully developed, well written and often personal. You can also do a google image search under “AP portfolio samples”. **When looking at the sample portfolios on the AP website, you can ignore the section called **Breadth**; as of the 2019-2020 school year, this is no longer part of the portfolio and you won’t need to do it....*

[Click here to view samples of 2D, Drawing, and 3D portfolios](#)

- 3) **Review the rubrics for AP Studio- 2D Design and AP Studio –Drawing on the College Board website.** Note the differences between the 2 rubrics. They are subtle, but important! It is good to know what the judges are looking for when they evaluate your work. You can submit either portfolio at the end of the year... we will decide together what’s best for you!

[Scoring rubrics for AP portfolios](#)

- 4) **Come up with your concentration theme.** Write a **one paragraph** statement describing the central idea behind your concentration. This statement will guide the development of your art for

the course. Make sure you choose an idea you can live with and work at for the entire year; something that has enough depth for you to explore.

- 5) **Create “thumbnail” sketches.** These are very small, simple drawings that help you plan out your ideas before you create larger works of art. If you have taken Drawing and Painting or Intro, you have done this before. You will need a total of 15 thumbnail sketches before you can begin the artwork for your portfolio. If you come to school in September with 6 thumbnail sketches and your paragraph completed, it will be enough information for me to give you feedback on your progress. You can also email me over the summer at gfriedman@woodburysch.com if you have questions, concerns, or if you need anything. If you are registered for the course, please remember to ask me for a sketchbook before we go on summer break so that you have something to work in. If you come to class the first week of school with your paragraph and your 6 thumbnail sketches, you will begin the year with two A's in PowerSchool.

See you in September!

Dr. Friedman