



Dear Visual Arts Level II-IV Students and Parents,

We hope you are having a relaxing and productive summer. The visual arts faculty members are looking forward to a great school year and are excited to hear about all of your summer experiences. The Student Prelude will take place on **Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the time the student's arts instruction would begin.** Please report to your arts instruction classroom. **This is a mandatory event.** The first day of class is **Thursday, August 16, 2018.** If the student is in Academic Studio, he/she should report to class at 8:00am. Arts instruction will begin promptly at **1:15pm** and we expect all students to arrive with the three new required pieces of summer work as described below.

Summer Artwork Due: Each student should have **three** new works that have been created in either a summer pre-college program or on your own during the summer. All three works should be **finished** and "**portfolio worthy.**" A faculty member will check with each student at the beginning of class on Thursday to be sure that **3 completed pieces** are in hand. Students are also expected to maintain a journal throughout the summer, which will be reviewed when journals are collected during the first grading period.

The three summer pieces can be in any media—**black and white drawing, color drawing, mixed media, paint, etc.** The size of each piece should be 18 x 24 inches or larger (pieces using non-traditional formats are acceptable but should add up to 18 x 24 in size). Sculptural work is also accepted.

If you are having a hard time coming up with an idea, here are some suggestions to get started:

- You could do a series of self-portraits or portraits of your family or friends.
- You could also do three complex drawings of your room at different times of the day.
- You can explore different points of view - bird's eye, worm's eye, or different lighting situations.

Since the subject is up to you, do something you enjoy so that you will be willing to invest the time to make some strong, ambitious work. Do not wait until the first week of August to start. The work will be presented in a full class critique on the first few days of school and it is an opportunity for you to show how much you have grown over the summer. We hope you are enjoying your summer and look forward to working with you next school year!

Cordially,

The NOCCA Visual Arts Faculty



Important Guidelines for the Parents of Visual Arts Students- Levels II, III and IV

The Visual Arts faculty wants each student's experience to be rewarding and successful. In order to accomplish this goal, we have put in place some guidelines around absences and home assignments that will ensure a successful year for your student.

Home Assignments: An important part of the Visual Arts program is our weekly home assignments. Instructions for these assignments are given out two weeks in advance, however, they are due each Monday. Home assignments are an important part of your student's grade and their growth in the visual arts program and consequently we have stiff penalties for missing them. If your student misses **more than ONE home assignment** in a single grading period, he/she will be placed on probation and receive a "C," regardless of their other class grades. A "C" at NOCCA is a failing grade, which must be brought up to a "B" or higher by the next grading period or the student's enrollment will be jeopardized. If an assignment is brought in late (on Tuesday through Friday of the week the assignment is due), the piece, no matter how well executed, will be graded at a "C" or below. If the assignment is not brought in by Friday of the week the assignment is due, the grade will turn to an "F" and cannot be made up.

Attendance: Because the Visual Arts program is studio-based, absences should be kept to a minimum (no more than three per semester). If your student is absent, a note explaining the reason should accompany them the day that they return and can be turned in to the front office. An email can also be sent to Yvette Cuccia at ycuccia@nocca.com.

Making up Absences: Excused absences, while unavoidable at times, still cause students to miss crucial studio time. If your student is absent from any class at NOCCA, he/she will have to make arrangements with the faculty whose class they missed to make up the work during after school hours (between 4 and 6:30 pm). Each faculty member will keep a log of made up time in the studio.

Portfolio Review: Each Level II student will be required to prepare a portfolio for review by the visual arts faculty at the end of the school year. More instructions will be given out to the students as the time approaches. However, it is important to note that home assignments will make up a significant part of the student's portfolio.

Mandatory Gallery Opening Attendance: The Kirschman Artspace is a professional gallery that the Visual Arts department uses to extend the students' arts education. The NOCCA Visual Art Department hosts up to five visual arts shows by faculty, alumni, and visiting artists. On the opening night of the exhibitions, usually held from 6-8pm on Thursday nights, students have the opportunity to talk to the exhibiting artists. Throughout the school year, attendance at all openings will be mandatory. We will email a schedule to you when it becomes available in the fall.

NOCCA's program is challenging, and all students will need the active support of their families in order to thrive. You are an important part in your child's success, and we look forward to working with you.