



**WESTERN  
GUILFORD  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

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*Principal*

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Dear AP Studio student,

Welcome to Advanced Placement Studio Art!

In AP Studio (Design, Drawing or 3D) you will dive heavily into a variety of processes used to create art, experiment with style and voice, and ultimately create a portfolio consisting of 15 works of art revolving around 1. An inquiry question and 2. A sustained investigation (or SI) of that inquiry question.

You will begin by asking yourself several questions about the art you plan to create, the process in which you go about it, and what you intend to get from this class. You will spend the duration of the year exploring techniques and processes that benefit your artistic voice. There are no 'prompts' for your projects, meaning you will have to create your ideas and develop your portfolio independent of what you may have experienced in previous art classes.

The inquiry question you will base your portfolio on should be relevant to you and evoke strong feelings (positive, negative or a combination of emotions). You don't have to decide on your sustained investigation right away, but it is a good idea to begin thinking of what you will base your portfolio on. Some examples of past inquiry questions include 'How does food bring people together?', 'How are people affected by phobias?' or 'How do I portray and convey emotions?'.

To prepare for this class you should do a variety of things daily to develop the artistic 'eye' you will need to be successful in this course. Take pictures of any and everything you see, draw from observation for at least 20-30 minutes daily, create ANYTHING using random materials, and ***fall in love with the process not just the result***. I would recommend exploring Instagram and following a different type of artist every day. Explore digital, traditional, photography, crafts or anything that interests you. Create an IG account for your own art and document your own art. The website [thisiscolossal.com](http://thisiscolossal.com) is a great resource to see original art.

We will work with a variety of materials in our Lab period, but your concentration, voice and technique will dictate what materials you use and how many. You will be required to have some basic materials such as drawing pencils, erasers, drawing pens and most definitely a minimum **9x12 hardback** sketchbook.

This will be my 13<sup>th</sup> year teaching in Guilford County and my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching AP studio art. I spent 6 years teaching art at Kiser Middle School, 4 years teaching AP and IB Art at High Point Central high school, and this will be the start of my 3rd year at Western Guilford. I love art, golf, UNC Tarheels, Redskins football, yardwork, and hanging out with my wife and daughters (one of which whose initials just happen to be ART). I am a teaching artist, and you can follow me on Instagram @jeremythomasart or on my website, [jeremythomasart.com](http://jeremythomasart.com).

Please email me at [thomasj5@gcsnc.com](mailto:thomasj5@gcsnc.com) if you have any questions. I look forward to experiencing this artistic journey with you!

All the best,

Jeremy Thomas

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