

03_Clay Preparation

Content Area: **Art**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Semester**
Length: **1 Week**
Status: **Published**

General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy

The Ceramics course is a one semester course designed to offer the students an understanding of the history of ceramics, while giving them an introduction to the fundamentals of hand building and wheel throwing. This is designed to be a hands on learning experience. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements and principles of line, shape, space, texture, and color. Focus will be on hand building methods and techniques including press, pinch, coil and slab. While students will be introduced to building with clay, the craft of wheel thrown pottery will be studied on a limited basis. Additionally, the course will include an examination of clay, glaze, decoration methods, and the firing process. Students will have the opportunity to engage in team work, design, creative problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS

Objective(s):

- Students will learn how to wedge clay properly to remove air bubbles and create a homogeneous mass.

Enduring Understanding:

- Creativity and innovative thinking are essential life skills that can be developed.
- Artists and designers shape artistic investigations, following or breaking with traditions in pursuit of creative art-making goals.

Essential Question(s):

- What conditions, attitudes, and behaviors support creativity and innovative thinking?
- What factors prevent or encourage people to take creative risks?
- How does collaboration expand the creative process?
- How does knowing the contexts, histories, and traditions of art forms help us create works of art and design?
- Why do artists follow or break from established traditions?
- How do artists determine what resources and criteria are needed to formulate artistic investigations?

CONTENT AREA STANDARDS

Anchor Standard 1: Generating and conceptualizing ideas.

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- a. Use multiple approaches to begin creative endeavors.
- b. Shape an artistic investigation of an aspect of present-day life using a contemporary practice of art and design.

Anchor Standard 5: Developing and refining techniques and models or steps needed to create products.

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- a. Analyze and evaluate the reasons and ways an exhibition is presented.

RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)

TECH.8.1.12.A.CS2

Select and use applications effectively and productively.

STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS

Declarative Knowledge

Students will understand that:

- Artists, curators and others consider a variety of factors and methods including evolving technologies when preparing and refining artwork for display and or when deciding if and how to preserve and protect it.
- There are different techniques for wedging clay such as ram's head, [spiral wedging](#), and [wire wedging](#).
- Learning how to wedge clay is a tricky skill to pick up when starting out in pottery. While the goal of wedging clay is to remove air bubbles and create a homogeneous mass, many beginning potters end up wedging more air into their clay than they take out. So it's important to learn how to wedge clay properly.

Procedural Knowledge

Students will be able to:

- Consider methods and processes when preparing artwork for presentation or preservation?
- Refine artwork to affect its meaning to the viewer.

- Choose between different different techniques for wedging clay such as ram's head, [spiral wedging](#), and [wire wedging](#).
- Remove air bubbles and create a homogeneous mass to prevent cracking, breakage, and explosions during firing.

EVIDENCE OF LEARNING

Alternate Assessments

- Projects
- Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences

Formative Assessments

Teacher Rubrics
Final Projects
Reflection Worksheet
Self evaluation/Critiques

Summative Assessments

Skills Demonstration

Sketchbook

Reflection

RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)

Demonstration

Video tutorial

<https://ceramicartsnetwork.org/daily/ceramic-supplies/pottery-clay/how-to-wedge-clay-properly/>

Visual aides

Handouts

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS

Students will be acquiring the skills necessary to create digital portfolio of their work.

ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS

See link to Accommodations & Modifications document in course folder.