Digital Art Middle School
Semester 1

Grade Level: 6–8
Credit: 0.5

Course Overview

Dive into Digital Art – Semester 1, where technology merges with creativity to shape the artists and storytellers of tomorrow. This fully online, self-paced, competency-based course empowers students to explore digital drawing, illustration, photography, and design while mastering state standards and targeted objectives at their own pace. Students advance only when they demonstrate true understanding, building confidence through hands-on projects, personal expression, and digital fluency.
Leveraging industry tools and guided instruction, learners will build a strong artistic foundation, developing skills to visually communicate ideas, innovate with emerging technologies, and craft polished visuals for school, creative projects, or future digital endeavors.

What Students Will Explore

- Introduction to Digital Art & Design

Students begin by defining digital art, exploring how it differs from traditional media and discovering careers in animation, illustration, graphic design, and digital photography. This unit lays the groundwork for understanding the digital canvas and setting personal learning goals.

- Photo Basics & Editing

Through “Say Cheese!” projects, students examine digital photography’s evolution and technical components—composition, lighting, and color. They then edit photos using beginner-friendly tools to crop, adjust exposure, and enhance imagery.

- 2D Digital Drawing & Design

Next, learners experiment with drawing apps and software to create original digital illustrations. They explore line, shape, texture, and color, crafting expressive visuals that capture meaning and style

- Graphic Design Fundamentals

Students move into graphic design by exploring how visuals and text combine to inform, persuade, or educate. They create pop-art pieces, digital posters, and social content—applying color theory, typography, and layout to real-world design contexts.

- Animation & Multimedia Essentials

Introductory animation and media lessons teach the basics of motion, timing, and multi-sensory storytelling through GIFs or simple motion graphics. Students learn how visual creativity extends into the digital entertainment space .

Key Learning Experiences

- Digital Portfolio Projects

Design and edit photos, illustrate digital art pieces, create a graphic poster, and produce a GIF or simple animation using digital tools.

- Weekly Mini-Challenges

Quick, gamified design prompts—such as emoji redesign, color palette exploration, or photo style swaps—keep skills sharp and creative thinking flowing.

•Critique & Reflection Circles

In structured online forums, students analyze peers' work, use appropriate art vocabulary, and reflect on their own process and growth.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Define and differentiate forms of digital art and design
- Demonstrate safe and effective use of digital cameras and editing tools
- Create original digital illustrations using line, shape, texture, and color
- Apply graphic design principles—layout, typography, hierarchy, color—to digital compositions
- Produce basic digital animations or motion graphics
- Curate a digital portfolio and write artist reflections
- Provide and receive constructive feedback using visual art terminology

Why Take This Course

Digital Art – Semester 1 equips students with creative and technical skills essential for today and tomorrow. Through project-based learning, students build confidence as both creators and critical thinkers. They graduate with a polished digital portfolio that showcases their talent and can be used for class presentations, extracurricular competitions, or future coursework.

Furthermore, this course nurtures vital 21st-century skills—visual communication, digital literacy, storytelling, and peer collaboration—preparing students for success across digital careers and creative industries. Ultimately, it fosters a sense of digital identity and artistic expression, providing a vibrant foundation for lifelong creativity and innovation.

The course is a fully online, self-paced, competency-based program, and we're very proud of it!

Students only advance once they've demonstrated true mastery of each skill—no rushing, no guessing. This flexible structure not only supports individual learning styles and schedules but also empowers learners to take ownership of their progress, knowing exactly what they can do next.

Moreover, every module, assignment, and assessment is meticulously aligned with state standards and clear learning objectives, guaranteeing comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and real-world skills students need to succeed. This isn't just online learning—it's purposeful, rigorous, and personalized, ensuring no student advances until they truly understand the material.