

Arlington Public Schools Visual Art Department
With Grades 6-12 in Mind.

Make Art at Home!

Thank you to neighboring school districts for their contributions to this list of creative home activities!

Here are many Art Making ideas for you to do at home and for doing research as well. You can take virtual museum tours, look at other artists' work and even create your own "gallery". And, as always, you are the artist and you decide what to make, what ideas and feelings you want to express and what materials you want to use.

All of the following bulleted ideas can be done as separate small works or as part of a visual journal (sketchbook):

- Create a drawing page about a memory/sensory tie you have experienced. Use materials around the house that remind you of that memory. Try using all your senses. What did you feel? What did you hear? Smell? See? Touch? Try to translate that in your work.
- Create an artwork about a routine you follow for example: your method for falling asleep.
- Flip through a magazine or newspaper and rip out the image that you find most interesting. Create an artwork where you subvert (change) the meaning, disassemble and or alter the ad to have a brand new or even opposite meaning.
- Create an artwork about your biggest fear. Perhaps journaling about it will help you conquer it. This could include text or images or maybe both. Maybe you write all the text down to get it all out and cover it up.
- Create an artwork using newspaper. Find an interesting article you connect to and use it as a base for your next page or create a page about the story you discovered.

- Draw an object from observation. Select an object that you want to know more about. Each day draw it from a different point of view or perspective. Or draw the same thing 30 times within the same day.
- Create an artwork about something you want to act on. It could be as small as helping your elderly neighbor or as big as solving world hunger. Aim to have this work be evocative (When people look at it they really feel something).
- Create a series of self-portraits that reflect your sense of self and or mood as it shifts and changes over each day of the recess. Compile them together in a final piece. These could be on paper bags, receipts, scrap paper, the wider materials used the better. Maybe include some reflective writing.
- Do some mindful checking in and write a sentence about how you are feeling each day. Translate those sentences into images or symbols and combine them into a united artwork.
- Create a drawing a day of an activity or something you did that brought you joy. Think about using color symbolism to communicate these emotions as well as different types of lines to express the feeling you had while doing the activity.
- Take a photo each day of something that seems the same but is changing over time. Keep some part consistent (the light source, the subject, the time of day) Collage all these pages together on your phone or computer.
- Create a drawing about one of your obsessions. Use a combination of magazine images and drawings
- Create a drawing about your mantra for the year. What do you want to accomplish? What quote best represents that?
- Today is the day for procrastination. Take a break from what you should be doing and procrastinate. Put it all off, do something fun instead, find a new way to express your creativity. Splatter paint, make spin art, have fun. It's not about a finished product, but the process you take to get there.
- Take a blank sheet of paper, a variety of paint colors, and have fun. Blend colors, create patterns by playing with brush strokes, or even

finger paint. Allow the paper to dry, then rip it up and use it to create a new work

- Gather materials from within your house or in your backyard to make a temporary installation piece of artwork. This means it will be temporary and not permanent. You can arrange them in a pattern or it could be abstract. Try it with a family member and document your work.
- Create a personality for an inanimate object in your home! It can be a piece of furniture, or even a toy, food, or appliance. Make an artwork about it (writing or artwork)
- Have your own happy accident and experiment with layering bleeding tissue paper and adding water. Try to return to your art class days and consider the color wheel. Complimentary colors will create browns and grays (blue/orange, red/green, purple/yellow) while primary colors will create secondary colors and nice blends (red/yellow=orange, blue/red=purple, yellow/blue=green). I also like to mix tertiary colors, or colors next to each other on the color wheel (yellow/green, red/orange, blue/green, blue/purple, etc.). Have fun and enjoy some color theory!
- Give positive thinking a go. Get a sheet of paper, give it a fun title, and make a list of all the little things that make you happy this week. Think small, sleeping in five extra minutes, your dog being sweet, getting a card, or smelling something nostalgic. Create an artwork each day for 2 weeks.
- Create a page that uses cut paper. Pick a few colors, textures, words, a pair of scissors, and start cutting. Try to be random and loose. Layer them in your journal, add them to a picture, put magazine images on top, or leave it abstract. The rest is up to you!
- Create a page that represents your outlook on life at this point in time. Feeling depressed, create a dark page. Excited about something coming up, create something with bright colors and movement. Choose an image to represent your emotion or create something more abstract. Make one for each day
- Create a page that uses your favorite picture. It does not have to be a picture of you; it can be anyone or anything, as long as it's your all time favorite. Think about how you can keep focus on the image while

still incorporating other materials into the page. Try to break the image out of the rectangular photograph shape.

- Create a collage using only magazine images. Try to find a balance between using multiple images while still maintaining a focal point. Splice together magazine images, photographs, or print outs. Cut at least two images in strips and alternate them.
- Create a work of art from a work of art! Base a page on a drawing, painting, sculpture, photograph you created, or find inspiration from your favorite artist (no matter how well known or not they are). Incorporate materials used in the work of art, that helped create the work of art (even if it's a paper towel!), images that inspired it, or pictures of the actual work of art. Better yet, deconstruct an old artwork and re-imagine it completely.
- Create a photo collage. Either print pictures on computer paper or use photo paper (if you want a ripped look to your page use computer paper). Try combining multiple images together, repeat people in the same scene, try to create depth
- Create an artwork using your own set of rules or limits. Create a different painting each day for example: create a drawing or painting using: only your left hand; your feet; while blindfolded; that is symmetrical; upside down; taped underneath a table.

Here is an idea for a larger 2D work:

Find a larger piece of cardboard or paper (maybe 11"x17" or 18"x 24" and spend at least 20 minutes a day drawing on it. Mix up the drawings if you'd like or create one picture- that's up to you! Mix your materials up and NEVER cross or scribble out any part of the drawing, change it or layer another drawing over it if you make a "mistake". See how your drawing changes day by day by recording it through time lapse or pictures!

Websites to explore:

Virtual Tours of Art Museums:

1. Google's virtual art museum tours:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/streetviews>
2. National Gallery Virtual Tour:
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>

Google's current experiments in arts and culture:

<https://experiments.withgoogle.com/collection/arts-culture>

Art Prompt Generator:

<https://artprompts.org/>

Videos:

1. Art21 - videos on specific artists:
<https://art21.org/>
2. Netflix's "Abstract"
3. The Great Pottery Throw Down series (BBC show of amateur potters)

CONNECTING WITH OTHERS THROUGH ART

- Challenge a friend to create art cards (2" x 3½") and exchange them by mail or email
- Make a small painting or drawing and mail it to someone (snail mail cannot share virus)
- Ask a friend/family member to share their favorite poem, song or story and interpret it for them in a 2d piece of art
- Challenge a friend to a daily drawing challenge and share (through the web)
- Develop characters with a friend and create a story for them
- Challenge a friend to gather the same recycled materials and attachment materials (1 egg carton, 1 water bottle, a shoe box and some tape, scissors), and create a sculpture - check back in an hour and share your different results

Sculpture ideas: See this link for more details and photos:

<https://theartofeducation.edu/2014/09/11/six-inexpensive-sculpture-ideas-to-start-the-year/>

1. Make a geometric sculpture out of rolled up paper/ newspaper
2. Create a cardstock sculpture.
3. Create an altered book sculpture.
4. Create a sculpture from found objects (bottle caps, soda cans, paper cups, etc.)
5. Create an everyday object out of cardboard.
6. Create a sculpture that you can use out of cardboard (for example, a chair that you can sit on)
7. Create a sculpture out of home-made clay (playdough or cloud dough)

Themes to explore: Animals, architecture, place, memory, figure, political or personal message, narrative, emotions, history, pop culture, sports

More abstract themes: clusters, multiples, conversations, connection, isolation, hope, power, dwellings, hybrids

Three- Ingredient Playdough (<https://www.makeandtakes.com/3-ingredient-play-dough/>)- **There are other recipes online as well. Find the one that you like the most.**

- 1/2 cup cornstarch
 - 1 cup baking soda
 - 3/4 cup water
 - *optional: 2-3 drops of [essential oils](#) are fun to add in*
 - *optional: 4-5 drops of food coloring*
1. In a saucepan with NO heat, add the cornstarch, baking soda, water and stir.
 2. Place your saucepan on the stove top and turn your heat to medium.
 3. Continue stirring the mix constantly. It will start to bubble slightly and that's when it happens really fast. It will begin to turn solid. Once a ball starts to form (4-5 minutes) take your pan off the heat.
 4. Place your dough onto a piece of parchment paper or a silicone mat. Let it cool, it will be very hot. *To speed the cooling process, flip it over and knead it a bit as it's cooling down. **Be careful, it's HOT.***
 5. Once your dough is cool you have the option of adding in a food coloring or a scent. *Option: add [2-3 drops of essential oil](#), we used lemon, and knead it into the dough. Option: add drops of food coloring to your desired colored, even 1 drop will give it some color.*

Two-ingredient "Cloud Dough" (gluten free) (<https://www.woojr.com/easy-2-ingredient-cloud-dough/>)

Put equal parts hair conditioner and cornstarch in your bowl and start mixing them together. It will most likely look like marshmallow fluff at this point, which is way too wet.

Start adding more cornstarch in slowly and mixing as you go. You'll end up with close to a 2-part cornstarch to 1-part conditioner ratio, but that depends on your brand of conditioner and cornstarch. Once it isn't quite coming together with the spatula, use your hands and start squishing it together. If it's too wet, add more cornstarch. If it feels too dry, add more conditioner. When you're happy with the feel of your cloud dough, roll it up into a big ball!

If you want to add color, just grab some gel food colors. Separate your cloud dough into balls for how many different colors you want and use your knuckle to make an indent in the ball. Add one drop of color to each ball.

Then fold up the dough around the color drop and start mixing it in until the color is fully incorporated. If the dough feels too wet after adding the color, just sprinkle on a tiny bit of cornstarch and knead it in.

You want to store it in a plastic bag or airtight container, and it lasts for at least a week. If it dries out a bit, just add a drop of conditioner to bring it back to life. I hope your kids have a ton of fun making and playing with this Easy 2 Ingredient Cloud Dough!

Virtual Field Trip!

Take a virtual field trip to national parks, zoos, and science sites and museums. Respond to what you find and see by making a work of art in any medium. Click here for a world of possibilities: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SvIdgTx9djKO6SjyvPDsoGlkgE3iExmi3qh2KRRku_w/mobilebasic

For those of you who like to do research: Create a Contemporary Art Slideshow About One Living Artist

Create a slideshow of Contemporary Art using the resources and links below. Include as many artists as you like.

For each artist include the following:

- Primary media the artist uses to make art
- Background information about the artist: Where they are from? What is their ethnic background? Is the artist part of a particular art movement?
- What main themes, subjects, social issues, emotions and/or ideas does the artist deal with?
- A sampling of written information by art historians or critics

Select contemporary artists from the list of resources located below:

[The Armory Show 2020](#)

[Art on Paper NYC](#)

[NADA](#)

[Frieze](#)

[SCOPE NYC](#)

[Whitney Museum](#)

[MOMA](#)

[Guggenheim Museum](#)

[The Met Breuer](#)

<https://art21.org/> Art21 includes many short videos on specific artists organized alphabetically and by theme)

Galleries

[See Saw Gallery guide phone](#)

Create a 3D virtual gallery (create your own exhibit in a virtual gallery even of your own artwork!) <https://exhibit.com/home/>

And even more:

Virtual Tours of Art Museums:

3. Google's virtual art museum tours:
<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/streetviews>
4. National Gallery Virtual Tour:
<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>

And Even More!

Art & Design Online Resources for Enrichment and Independent Learning courtesy of Burlington Public Schools Art Department

- [Burlington High School Art homepage](#)
- [27 Art Activities and Lessons to Try at Home](#)
- [Google Arts & Culture](#) - So much to see! Try the "Explore" button, where you can use the Art Camera to zoom into famous master paintings, experience culture in 360 degrees, and tour the world's greatest museums and other landmarks using "Street View". Or choose categories to discover the most well-known artists and masterworks in history.
- [Google Art Project](#) - Zoom into the finest details on the most famous artworks in the world.
- [Arts & Culture Experiments](#) - Try out experiments at the crossroads of art and technology, created by artists and creative coders with Google Arts & Culture (Some require VR headsets and Steam)
- [Google Arts & Culture \(Chrome Extension\)](#) - Make the site your homepage, and have a new masterwork fill your screen every day.
- [Art Project - New Tab \(Chrome Extension\)](#) - Display random masterpieces from Google Cultural Institute in your every new tab
- [Artcyclopedia](#)
- [Art History Resources](#)
- [Art 21: Art in the 21st Century](#) (PBS) - video series on working artists. **Art21** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring a more creative world through the works and words of contemporary artists.
- [Art School: PBS Learning Media](#) - a web video series that introduces contemporary artists who discuss their careers and intentions, then demonstrate hands-on techniques or concepts. Art School provides resources for learning how to draw comic strips, create animations, and much more. Engage with contemporary art and discover new ideas for creativity from a variety of professional artists through this fun and engaging series.
- [The Art Assignment](#) (PBS) - A weekly PBS Digital Studios production that takes you around the U.S. to meet working artists and solicit assignments from them that we can all complete. For more, subscribe to The Art Assignment on YouTube:
youtube.com/theartassignment.

- [TED.com: Visual Art](#)

On Netflix:

- [Abstract: The Art of Design](#) (2 seasons)
- [Tales by Light](#) (3 seasons) - Photographers and filmmakers travel the world capturing indelible images of people, places, and creatures from new, previously unseen angles.
- [Miss Hokusai](#) - An animated motion picture - Herself a talented artist, O-Ei works with her father, Tetsuo, later known as Hokusai, on the woodblock prints that would make Edo famous worldwide

On Amazon Prime Video - If your family already has a membership with Amazon Prime, there are so many movies and shows on art that are available that it's impossible to list them all. Here are a few good starting points:

- [Kehinde Wiley: An Economy of Grace](#) (A fantastic contemporary portrait artist and a great documentary)
- [Masterworks](#)
- [Brushstrokes: Every Picture Tells a Story](#) (a series of half-hour shows each focusing on a single famous painting)
- [Great Artists with Tim Marlow](#) (16+)
- [Museum Access: Season 1: Episode 3: The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Museum Access: Season 2: Episode 7: The Bruce Museum](#)
- [Museum Access: Season 2: Episode 10: The Phillips Collection](#)
- [Renaissance Unchained](#) (16+)
- [Art & Copy](#) (a movie about graphic designers)

On Hoopla - Members of the Burlington Public Library have access to Hoopla, an ebook and streaming service.

- [Loving Vincent](#) is a wonderful animated movie comprised of thousands of actual paintings (hand-painted in the style of Van Gogh!). The life and controversial death of Vincent Van Gogh told by his paintings and by the characters that inhabit them. The intrigue unfolds through interviews with the characters closest to Vincent and through dramatic reconstructions of the events leading up to his death.

Weekend and Summer Programs for Young Artists - Investigate the opportunities

- [Lesley University Pre-College Art Programs](#)
- [Boston Architectural College Summer Academy](#)
- [Boston University Visual Arts Summer Institute](#)
- [The Massachusetts College of Art and Design Youth Programs](#)
- [School of the Museum of Fine Arts \(Tufts\) Pre-College Studio Art Intensive](#)
- [Montserrat College of Art Summer Pre-College Programs](#)
- [Lexington Arts & Crafts Society \(LexArt\) Summer Class Catalog](#)

College Search - For juniors thinking about art as a career, research post-secondary art programs:

- [Boston Architectural College \(BAC\)](#)
- [Boston University College of Fine Arts](#)
- [Maryland Institute College of Art \(MICA\)](#)
- [The Massachusetts College of Art and Design \(MassArt\)](#)
- [Montserrat College of Art](#)
- [Pratt Institute](#)
- [Rhode Island School of Design \(RISD\)](#)
- [School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston \(SMFA\)](#)
- [School of Visual Arts \(SVA\)](#)

Art Museums - Explore from Home

- [Boston Sculptors Gallery](#)
- [DeCordova Art Museum and Sculpture Park](#)
- [Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#)
- [Harvard Art Museums](#)
- [The Institute of Contemporary Art Boston](#)
- [Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum](#)
- [The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art \(MassMOCA\)](#)
- [The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
- [Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)
- [The Museum of Modern Art](#)
- [Peabody Essex Museum](#)
- [The Smithsonian Museum of American Art](#)

Art Magazines

- [Newsela: art articles](#)
- [Art New England](#)
- [ARTnews Magazine Online](#)

Arts Organizations

- [New England Foundation for the Arts](#)
- [Massachusetts Cultural Council](#)
- [Boston Open Studios](#)

These were shared by Gabriel Thompson at Art of Education:

- [27 Art Activities and Lessons to Try at Home](#)
- [How to Teach Art When No One Can Go to School](#)

- [How Might the Coronavirus Affect Our Classrooms? \(Ep. 209\)](#)

For districts that have an ArtEd Pro subscription, here are a few PRO Packs that are optimized for remote-teaching, with 36 resources that can be shared with students:

- [Creativity Exercises for Every Level](#) - This pack contains short activities with few supplies & a lot of creativity. Perfect for teaching students online.
- [Methods for Analyzing Art](#) - Access to supplies can sometimes be an issue, with this pack your students could analyze art instead of making art.
- [Mindfulness in the Elementary Art Room](#) - this pack has specific project ideas and some breathing techniques/resources to help students feel calm in times of uncertainty.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Virtual Instructor:

A six day set of lessons, including videos, on getting better at observational drawing
<https://thevirtualinstructor.com/blog/improve-your-drawing-skills-in-6-days>

