

Studio Culture

Who We Are

The culture at AAI is an energetic and productive environment where student work is nurtured with both respect and critical attention. We, as teachers, recognize that art making is a creative act and an intimate personal investment.

Students are treated as collaborators in their own learning process and encouraged to develop the life-long behaviors of curiosity, rigorous thinking and making, measured self-discipline and engaged intellect. These values are what characterize the AAI studio environment.

Studio Etiquette

Students are expected to **work** in the studio/classroom. This will immeasurably enrich the student's learning potential. If everyone is to **work** in the studio, certain etiquette is necessary to ensure a civil **working environment**.

The art classroom can be a place where students make their thoughts part of a public **discourse** of peers and teachers. This should only happen if everyone listens, considers what is being said or proposed by everyone else, and then **thoughtfully** responds to being said.

Students should be considerate of their classmates. Our classrooms/studios are shared space, students should keep their personal workspace in reasonable order. They should clean up after themselves after each session using common work-tables.

Time Management

AAI has an advanced curriculum. Students should develop time-management skills early on to make the best and most efficient use of time in the studio/classroom. By students should anticipate and plan for deadlines. Visual art work in particular seems to always need more time: it is never done. In fact, it will expand to fill time available. Students are urged to work with their teachers to learn to judge when work is substantially complete.

Community Responsibilities

There is a mutual responsibility to create an environment of **trust, respect, and comfort** for all members of this community.

- All students are expected to come class prepared to work on art for the full period. If students have nothing to work on they should draw a still life, work on a sketchbook assignment, or have a teacher assign a small art project to work on.
- Traveling between rooms is allowed, and encouraged, but direct communication with a teacher is **required** if you leave the classroom you started in.
- Members of this community should not engage in disparaging behavior that undermines the integrity of the community or of individuals within it.
- All students need to clean up after themselves AND keep the classroom as a whole clean and orderly.

- Borrowing/checking out art supplies is allowed as long as students return them/check them in when they are finished using them.
- All music should be at a reasonable volume so as not to inhibit discourse or concentration. Headphones are **STRONGLY** encouraged.
- No students should leave class early or wait outside the classroom or around the door for the bell to ring.