

## **Studio Thinking**

*Studio Thinking Curriculum developed from a research study that discovered the Eight Habits of Mind.*

### **DESCRIPTION**

The J. Paul Getty Trust funded the research that developed Studio Thinking Curriculum. Research was conducted on students and faculty that attended the Boston Arts Academy and the Walnut Hill School to find out what the arts actually teach. The research uncovered the hidden curriculum that visual art classes teach. The data from the study lead to the discovery of the Eight Studio Habits of Mind. These studio habits include:

1. *Develop Craft*- Students learn how to use tools, materials, and techniques to participate in art class. The students are learning how to use the space around them, care for tools, and utilize materials.
2. *Engage and Persist*- Students learn to engage problems and focus on continuously working on a task even if it is not easy.
3. *Envision*- Students are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination to generate mental images that will guide them to their next step in the art making process.
4. *Express*- Students transform an idea and a vision into a work that conveys the idea, mood, or feeling.
5. *Observe*- Students are guided to look and really see what they are creating. To see things with an open mind and to see things that might be overlooked.
6. *Reflect*-Students are challenged to question and explain their artwork or the artwork of others.
7. *Stretch and Explore*- Students learn to go above and beyond. They are encouraged to play and embrace the unknown and to learn from their mistakes.
8. *Understand Art World*- Students are taught about art history and current art practices and how it relates to their world in a broader community.

### **ANALYSIS**

Studio Thinking Curriculum gives art the validation and recognition it deserves and needs to be taken seriously as a core subject in public schools. The scientific research to back up the Eight Habits of Mind provides tangible evidence of what the arts is actually teaching students. The Eight Habits of Mind serve a huge role in art education and are a good set of goals to teach and encourage in the classroom. The Eight Habits of Mind have been developed to help teachers create a curriculum with lessons that reflect all the ways that creative people act. *Develop craft* is important because the students can actually utilize the techniques that they are taught to create a piece of artwork they can feel proud of. *Engage and persist* is important because art making is not easy and executing a vision or idea into an actual art form is challenging and takes perseverance to not give up and stick with it. *Express* is important because first the student has to identify the feeling or idea they want to convey and then try and successfully create a piece of

artwork reflecting that idea. *Observe* is important because we learn by developing schemes and it is extremely hard to break schemes and expectations in order to look at something with a truly open mind. *Reflect* is important because once the student has completed a piece of work they then need to think about their work and question if it is done or if it conveying what they originally planned or something completely different. *Stretch and explore* is important because if a student never explores into what the unknown by taking risks, that student will never learn or experience anything new. *Understand art world* is important because the art world is always changing and it is important to understand the history before to see why things are the way they are now.