

**Welcome and Welcome back! to ArtQuest Digital Arts** and the 2015-16 School Year!

**Dear Parents and Students,**

I'm John Sappington and will be the Digital Arts instructor for the 2015-16 school year.

Biography : I am a working artist, photographer and educator working primarily in digital photography and digital media. I graduated with a BFA from Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute - both in photography. My art work draws from a range of influences, particularly street photography of the late 60s' and 70s' (Robert Frank, Gary Winogrand), as well as conceptual strategies and post-structuralist theory (Roland Barthes, Hollis Frampton ). I have taught Digital Photography and Imaging at the Santa Rosa Junior College since 2003. I am presently also the Digital Arts Instructor for ArtQuest - A California Arts Specialty Program at Santa Rosa High School.

My credentials are available here:

Website:

<http://basearts.com/>

Portfolio:

<http://www.basearts.com/portfolioWORKING15.htm>

Complete CV 2015

<http://www.basearts.com/Sappington.FullCV2015.pdf>

**Syllabus** and **schedule** will be available throughout the school year here:

Beginning Syllabus and Schedule - <http://www.basearts.com/artquest/index.htm> -

Intermediate and Advanced Syllabus and Schedule - <http://www.basearts.com/artquest/index2.htm>

*Please check back often for updates.*

**AQ Theme 2015-16 – “ Its not about the Destination, its about the Journey”**

AQ began two decades ago with 60 students and just two Arts Specialties - Visual Fine Arts and Multimedia (now divided into Digital Arts and Video Arts) but now has about 600 students and eight different Arts Specialties, four in Visual and four in the Performing Arts. As a cohesive programmatic theme this year we will work with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, Life is a Journey and not a Destination. Our particular variation will be, “**About the Journey**”. AQ uses a theme each year to connect the various arts and core-related classes and to create an overarching artistic dialogue throughout the program about various topics and ideas, some relevant to a particular time or context, some focused on a specific performing or visual art work, some humorously thoughtful about the human condition, and some a serious investigation of political or social issues. Interpreted in a wide array by teachers and students, and the projects, events, other activities and outcomes generated have been delightfully surprising. Past AQ themes have been: The Other (94-95), The Coexistence of Order & Chaos (95-96), No Theme ? (aka It's a Mystery!) (96-97), What is Real? Is it Real? (97-98), The War Requiem Project (98-99), The Passage (99-00), World with a View (Bring a Map) (00-01), Child of Our Time (01-02), Revision (02-03), Collective Invention (03-04), Beauty and the Beast (04-05), Atticus (05-06), Patriot Acts (06-07), Where the Wild Things Are (07-08), PROject eARTh (08-09), Rebel With a Cause (09-10), And Now for Something Completely Different! (10-11), We're Not in Kansas Anymore (11-12), Renaissance (12-13), Toward a More Perfect Union (13-14), and of course, this year is ArtQuest@20 (14-15).

**LAB CONTRIBUTIONS**

As a public school, we are not allowed to require any type of lab fee, but as a materials based program, student lab contributions offset part of the expense for the ArtQuest Digital Arts classes. The lab contributions are for the FULL year, which allows us to do the time-consuming bookkeeping only once, to purchase supplies in bulk and plan our curriculum and materials in advance. We are a projects based program and access to resources generally not available in high school art programs is one of the things that makes ArtQuest unique, gives the message to our students that we truly value their work and provides them with high enough quality materials to support their efforts and to encourage success. While we are sure that everyone is aware of the state of the economy right now, it is always surprising that education gets hit as hard as it does every time there are budget issues. It is of less surprise that the arts get hit hardest. While we recognize the benefits of arts in education, we are the minority. Lab contributions are particularly important now because ArtQuest has taken significant budget cuts over the past few years. We do continue to seek out a variety of sources of funding, including new grants, community and business support and donations. Major field trips usually involve an additional fee, based on the actual costs of admission and transportation.

***Please consider contributing to your student's lab costs. We would appreciate it no later than Monday August 31th, given directly to your student's teacher. Cash or Checks accepted (Checks should be made out to: “ArtQuest at Santa Rosa High School”).***

If you have financial need for a full or partial scholarship, payment plan or a time extension, parents/guardians should contact their student's teacher directly as soon as possible, or before August 31, to make arrangements at 528-5070 (Voice Mail Box Extensions: Jonn Sappington extension 6773).

**All Levels (Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced) - \$125.00 per student for the FULL year.** Each student will receive a sketchbook, flash drive, digital printing materials and drawing materials. Other supplies will be made available to students depending on individual class projects. Students will also need to purchase some of their own supplies and find a book bag or backpack to keep their supplies in; they will need them everyday in class. Additional detailed information and additional materials requirements may be forthcoming in individual Class Project Packets as necessary.

#### **WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORMS**

Please sign and return the attached Walking Field Trip Permission Form to us no later than **Monday August 31th**. While some of you may recall signing a similar form, we request that you sign again and return the form for our classroom records. Remember that this form is only for walking field trips; any that involve transportation will have their own, trip-specific permission required.

**"FRIENDS OF ARTQUEST"** A nonprofit organization of parents, community members and teachers dedicated to supporting the ArtQuest program and the arts in education, Friends of ArtQuest is actively involved in fundraising, helping with all ArtQuest events, exhibits and performances, doing publicity and public relations, chaperoning field trips, and doing a myriad of things that support and advance the program. Please support your student by becoming a member of this important, effective organization. The first parent meeting will be on Monday, August 31<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in Room 21, the Arts Office. For more information please contact the "Friends of ArtQuest Hotline" at (707) 528-5070, x 6787.

#### **ESCRIP**

We cannot emphasize the value of this program enough! One of the easiest ways "Friends of ArtQuest" raises funds for ArtQuest is through the "eScrip" program. This is a painless (and free to you) way to contribute directly to your student's specialty; eScrip donates a percent of your purchases at participating merchants, which is then routed to the ArtQuest Digital Arts Specialty, *if you specify it*. There is no sign-up fee and we ask you to PLEASE go online to their website and fill out the form. It is possible to divide your eScrip contribution if you have children in multiple specialties. Also, if you have friends or relatives who would like to support your student's participation in the ArtQuest program, please have them sign up, too! They are a safe and secure site, and if you have signed up before, you need to update your account annually, so go to <http://www.escrip.com/> to sign up and support Friends of ArtQuest and the Digital Arts program! *Again, Important ALERT!* Even if you have registered in the past we need a new form each year as merchants often change policies and require updated registration. Safeway requires an annual reenrollment.

**IMPORTANT FALL DATES:** Please mark your calendar for these important dates: **Friday August 28 : AQDA forms & Lab Contributions are due.** Please contact teacher for scholarship information or extensions.

**DATES TBD: "ArtQuest Annual Fall Showcase of Programs"**, beginning at 6:30 pm in the Auditorium. This is an evening for prospective students and families for Fall, 2014, to find out more about the opportunities ArtQuest has to offer, as well as current ArtQuest families to learn more about the program. Please plan to attend and also help us spread the word, because early application is highly recommended due to limited space. **DATES TBD to TBD, "Shadowing"**, ArtQuest offers students interested in the ArtQuest program the opportunity to "Shadow" a specialty for a day. Students may attend on either **DATES TBD**. Call (707) 535-4842 for more information and to schedule your student. Wednesdays, and Fridays only. Parents, I look forward to meeting you all and thank you for your support of your student and the arts in education. Students, I am honored and excited to be working with you as you embark on your careers in the arts. I anticipate a very creative and productive year.

#### **Thank you for your time and attention,**

John Sappington  
Digital Arts,  
ArtQuest Phone: 528-5070 x 6773  
Mobile: 707-332-0987

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[john@basearts.com](mailto:john@basearts.com) \* Alternate

PLEASE DON'T FORGET to return the attached form and Lab Contributions by Friday August 31st.



## Program Guidelines

**Instructor: John Sappington**

**Classroom: 39A**

Welcome (& welcome back) to school and to the SRHS ArtQuest Digital Art program. Please read these next 3 pages carefully and place it in your sketchbook for future reference. **I require that students and a parent or guardian sign and date the information sheet at the bottom of the last page and that the student return it to me no later than Friday, August 28, 2015.** Hopefully this outline of the course description, expectations and rules will help to answer questions. Parents/Guardians are welcome to call me with any questions or concerns. **I am here to help all of my students succeed.** So, here's to a great year!

## **Overview**

ArtQuest Digital Art classes will incorporate the **California State Department of Education Framework for the Visual Arts** at the appropriate levels. **It is assumed that students who have applied and have been accepted to the Digital Arts program have a deep interest in the convergence of Art and Technology and some experiences in making artwork.**

Basically, the State Framework is organized around the following four components:

- **Artistic Perception** - Perception of art and identification of structures and functions of art, using the language of visual arts.
- **Creative Expression** - Making art works and developing skills with the variety of media and processes, expressive of personal experiences or responses
- **Historical and Cultural Context** - Exploring the role of art in culture and human history, including themes and style.
- **Aesthetic Valuing** - Deriving meaning from art works through analysis, interpretation and judgment.

What this all means is that we will look at art in various forms and from many cultures. We will study and engage with elements and principles of art. We will develop and refine skills utilizing a variety of software. We will make artworks on paper and for computer screens. We will discuss and make artwork in response to today's cultural issues as well as artwork addressing more personally relevant issues. We will investigate the interrelationships of art and technology as well as the relationship of art in other aspects of contemporary culture.

## **Course Description**

**It is extremely important to understand that this is not a computer class. THIS IS AN ART CLASS!** The specific emphasis of this course is on the use of the computer, digital equipment, and software as **TOOLS** to produce **ART WORK** of significant quality. **Through the process of collaborative projects, lecture and research, students will begin to acquire high levels of artistic and technological skills.**

## **Attendance**

Students are expected to arrive to each class on time and be prepared to engage in serious study and research for the duration of the class. Attendance will be taken by either roll call or visual observation at the beginning of each class. Excessive unexcused absences or tardies will result in a lower grade. **Because this class requires that you be present both physically and mentally, no personal radios or headsets will be allowed in the classroom at any time during the school year.**

## Grading Criteria

You will earn a grade for every assignment. In addition, you will receive **many** grades for the work in your sketchbook. Incomplete and/or late work will result in lower points for each class period past the due date. For Example: A project grade of A- becomes a B+ if handed in by the next class meeting an A- becomes a B if handed in by the second class meeting past the due date, etc. In addition, grades will reflect the student's:

- Ability to demonstrate grasp of lecture material through the creation of exceptional artwork.
- Originality in execution of high quality ideas.
- Ongoing dedication to developing creative/artistic growth, techniques, and visual library.
- Desire to analyze, implement, and challenge suggestions received during all critiques.
- Quality of craftsmanship and degree of professional presentation.
- Appropriate use of lab and equipment during school hours.
- Appropriate use of time during lab hours.
- Effectively meeting or surpassing any requirements of this course.

While I do not grade on behavior it is important to note that inappropriate behavior has a profound effect on completing quality work. If you are talking and/or disrupting the class you are not moving forward in your work. If you are not moving forward in your work your grade suffers.

## Journal/Sketchbook

All students will be provided a journal/ sketchbook. **You should never underestimate the value of your journal/sketchbook and its impact on your artistic development and your final grade.** Many out of class research assignments will be required. These assignments will usually be centered around visual observation and documentation in your sketchbook (Each will be graded). This instructor strongly suggests that students dedicate a minimum of 5 hours of sketchbook drawing a week (**1 hour a day**) in addition to the 10 hours of regular class lecture/lab time. This type of dedication will greatly enhance your observational drawing skills. We will talk more about this in class. You will be required to think and record your thoughts in your journal/sketchbook. Sketchbooks are not only for drawing but for storing concepts, quotes, significant historical information, images from magazines, writing down dreams, pasting your fortune from a fortune cookie, etc. Your sketchbook is your vault of ideas. You may want to view your sketchbook as a dictionary of who you are as an artist. **Consider your sketchbook your constant companion. Don't leave home without it! I will be asking to see the progress in your sketchbook every week. Bring it home to work on assignments and to every Digital Arts class.** Leaving your sketchbook in your locker is not acceptable. You will receive credit for significant effort in your sketchbook each week. In other words, the use of your sketchbook is mandatory. We will discuss journals/sketchbooks in greater detail in class.

## Rules

Everyone should be working diligently, and that doesn't leave a lot of time to ponder the rules. If you are thinking, researching, working, reworking and so on, your behavior will take care of itself. Of course, you must follow all school-wide rules and they are detailed for you in the SRHS Student Handbook. Make sure that you have a copy.

Our classroom rules are simple, and they revolve around respect and responsibility.

- **Respect** other people and their work (Keep a noise level that helps others and yourself work. Be honest, but kind during critiques. Don't tamper with other people's work).
- **Respect** yourself and your own work (Consistently do your best. Take care of your work).
- **Respect** the environment, supplies and equipment (Use equipment carefully. Keep everything in the studio in good repair. Clean and organize. Don't take anything that doesn't belong to you).
- **Be responsible** in all that you do (Clean up your part and the whole studio, too. Write down your assignments. Finish your work and turn in assignments on time).

- **The Digital Arts lab requires a lot of time, energy and funds to keep it in top working order. Do not tamper with your computer or attempt to install any software on your computer without permission. Doing so will result in possible dismissal from the lab.**
- **These and additional rules will be discussed in class in greater detail.**

### **Personal Phones**

I do allow students to have their cell phones on (\*ringers off) during class. I know that there will be times when parents will need to contact their children. If I am notified in advance that a student has an emergency situation that requires they make or maintain contact with a parent during my class they may do so. Please keep these calls to a minimum. Calling your child during appropriate times (brunch, lunch) is strongly suggested and is very much appreciated.

Student phones are on during in my class for important parent contacts and emergency purposes only. Otherwise voice calls and texting are forbidden during lab and lecture.

### **Materials**

We use many high quality materials in this course. There is a lab materials contribution of \$ **125.00** per year. This will provide each student with some basic supplies (e.g., a sketchbook, flash drive, printing paper, ink, DVD/CDs, field trips and entry fees to film festivals etc.).

### **Learning or Physical Disabilities**

If you have a learning or physical disability that requires special classroom modifications, please schedule a meeting with me as soon as possible to discuss the condition and any requirements necessary for you to successfully complete this course. For example, if you can't see the work on my monitor you need to let me know. Remember, I am here to help you succeed.

**(1) WALKING FIELD TRIP PERMISSION FORM:**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

From time to time, we will be taking walking field trips off campus to places such as the Santa Rosa Junior College Gallery, the Sonoma County Museum, and commercial galleries in downtown Santa Rosa. By signing this permission slip, you are giving permission for the student noted below to go on these walking field trips with the class and instructor. Please complete and return to me no later than **Friday August 28, 2015**. (Permission slips for field trips involving transportation will be sent home separately for each individual trip).

Thank you,

John Sappington

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

As the parent or legal guardian, I give my permission for the student named above to go on walking field trips as described above, with the ArtQuest Digital Arts instructor and class during the school year, 2015/2016.

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(2) Contributions**

Please return this signed permission sheet along with contributions for the lab materials of \$125.00 by **Friday August 28, 2015**. Make check payable to "**ARTQUEST at Santa Rosa High School**". Supplies and materials will be used and distributed through out the school year.

**(3) INFORMATION SHEET STATEMENT**

We have read and understand the attached ArtQuest Digital Arts information sheet sent home at the beginning of the school year, 2015/2016, which outlines the class expectations, rules, procedures and contribution requirements.

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's e-mail \_\_\_\_\_