

2020 Arts Day- Visual Art Guidelines
Theme – “Light”

Requirements: Create an artwork that expresses “Light.”

Broadly speaking, without light, art as we know it would be impossible. For it is the physical properties of light, in the form of waves, that carry information such as color, size, and distance from the world around us to our eyes. This in turn is transmitted via the optic nerve (upside down, backwards, and flat) to the visual cortex, which decodes and orients the information and gives it 3-dimensions and creates the images we “see.” Fascinating stuff.

Back to art: For this theme light itself is the subject, not just the means by which we see. As the subject it must be the main focus of the piece. This is evident most often when it is isolated by, or contrasted with, surrounding darkness. Think of a candle in a darkened room or shelf, or a street lamp on a dark street, or a shaft of sunlight through dark clouds or into a dim room.

The amount of light versus dark will evoke an emotional response or mood, with lots of light being associated with happiness or joy and less light expressing sorrow or despair. Where light falls on a person’s face, or how much does so can greatly impact the mood of the photo or drawing.

You can use any medium to express “Light.”

Examples:

Painting or drawing - Working on a canvas or paper, the subject can be an abstract or realistic painting/drawing. Portraits, sunlight on the side of a building, shadows of interesting shapes on a wall are some subject choices.

Sculpture - Light as sculpture is a modern art medium: In some cases an artful lamp, in others just the light itself glowing or projecting.

Ceramics - Any form is appropriate, but the expression of light may be in cutting into the form to create openings, or in using underglazes and glazes to show light in a pictorial form.

Mixed Media - Combining two or more of the above mediums into one art piece, such as painting or drawing on a collage. Adding objects to a painted 2D surface to create a 3D artwork piece is another possibility.

- Connection to or expression of the theme
- Demonstrates technique/skill
- Shows creativity in interpretation
- Demonstrates effort and thoughtful presentation
- Students may work in teams, but the piece will count as one.
- **Each class is required to enter three pieces.**

Work must be matted or mounted (adhered to a larger matt). Framing is fine but not necessary.

Each piece must have a paragraph explaining the connection to the theme. This should be typed and handed in with the artwork.

Do not sign the artwork on the front, only on the back.

Entries must be submitted to Mr. Swartz by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Plan on taking your artwork home after the evening public performances on Friday, February 14.