

# A Guide to the Colorado Academic Standards



## Working Together

To support families and teachers in realizing the goals of the Colorado Academic Standards, this guide provides an overview of the learning expectations for eighth grade visual arts education and offers some possible learning experiences students may engage in during this school year.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are ultimately successful in college, careers, and life. The standards aim to improve what students learn and how they learn in ten content areas, emphasizing critical-thinking, creativity, problem solving, collaboration, and communication as important life skills in the 21st century.

## Visual Arts Education for Middle Schools (6-8)

The visual arts standards in the middle school years build on the general art knowledge and skills developed at the elementary level. In addition, students explore and examine the role of design and technology in making, documenting, and presenting works of art. Students create, discuss, reflect on, and compare works of art — across historical periods and cultures — using materials, processes, tools, and vocabulary in more complex ways. Art careers and art-depicting issues that are important to communities are also examined. At this level, middle school art students extend their artistic vision beyond self and look at their artistic practice as part of a much larger community.

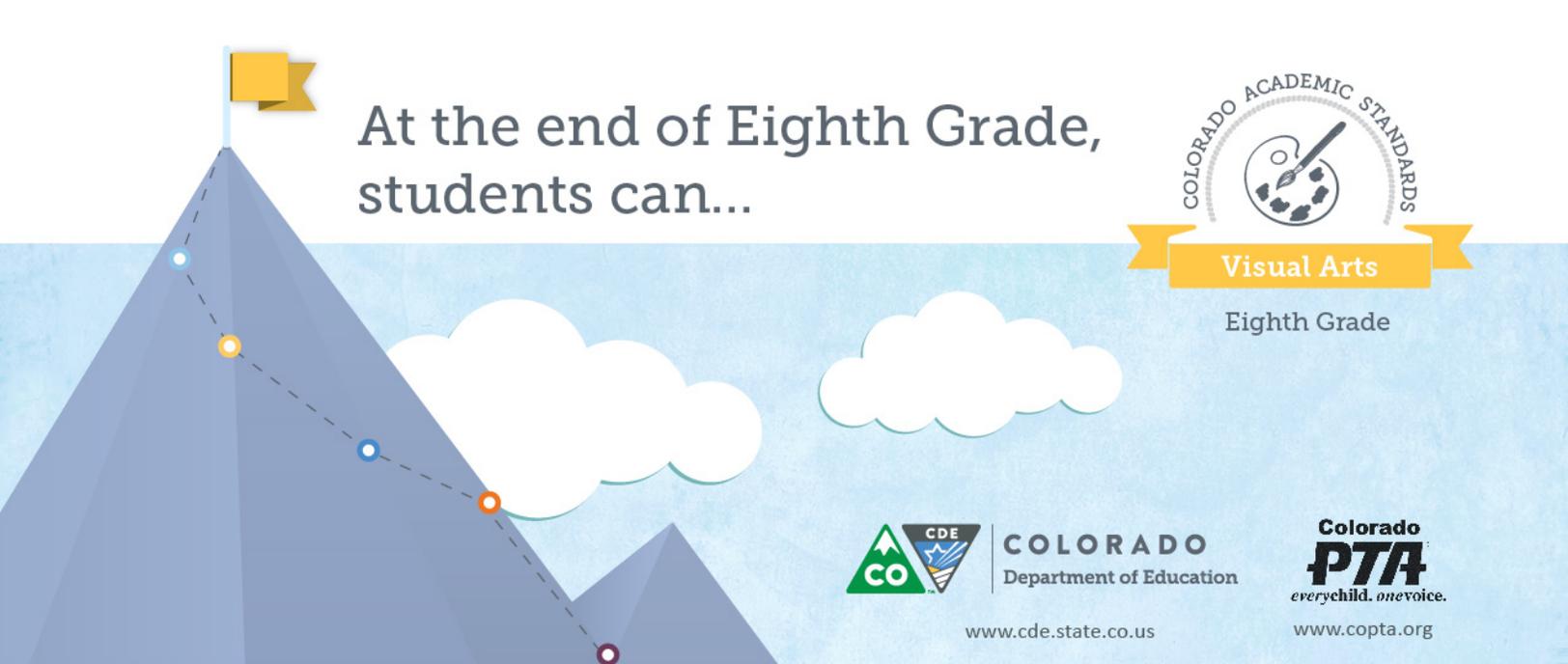
## Where can I learn more?

- Contact your school district regarding local decisions related to standards, curriculum, resources, and instruction.
- Colorado Academic Standards Booklets: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/GradeLevelBooks.asp>
- Karol Gates, Colorado Arts Content Specialist at 720-202-9268, [Gates\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:Gates_k@cde.state.co.us)



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# At the end of Eighth Grade, students can...



Visual Arts

Eighth Grade



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The Colorado Academic Standards in Visual Arts are organized by elements of the Creative Process:  
Know/Comprehend → Critique/Evaluate/Refine → Create/Present → Connect/Apply/Transfer

## Visual Arts Education Learning Expectations for Eighth Grade

### Observe and Learn to Comprehend (Know/Comprehend)

Consider sources for and of inspiration; use historical and contemporary art to inform and support ideas and plans to create art.

### Envision and Critique to Reflect (Critique/Evaluate/Refine)

Create art using symbols and metaphors (depicting the emotion for love as an image of a heart or rare jewel); explain how art is personally relevant and of significance to the artist.

### Invent and Discover to Create (Create/Present)

Develop proficiency in handling art materials, tools, processes, and technologies when planning and creating art.

### Relate and Connect to Transfer (Connect/Apply/Transfer)

Explain the relationship between art and design in everyday life; discuss the impact art can have on the way we understand and function in the world.

Throughout the Eighth Grade,  
you may find students successfully  
applying the elements of the creative  
process by...

- Describing and defending the intent and purpose of art using appropriate art vocabulary (the composition of stark contrasting colors represents the artist's intent to share a strong emotion).
- Investigating and debating quality in art and design.
- Explaining the reasons for creating a work of art; recognizing the influence of culture on artistic decisions.
- Describing and debating persuasive techniques used in print and electronic media (inclusion of an image that stands out by color or size; adding an image that does not seem to belong or is a surprise to draw the eyes of the observer) to influence an audience.
- Creating innovative works of art that depict personal, social, cultural, and/or political viewpoints as well as other interests.
- Researching and describing real-world applications of art.