

# 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 Third Grade Visual Arts. This guide offers some learning experiences students may engage in during this school year, experiences that may also be supported at home.

## Why Standards?

Created by Coloradans for Colorado students, the Colorado Academic Standards provide a grade-by-grade road map to help ensure students are 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 Elementary Schools (k-5)

The visual arts standards in the elementary years focus on General Art knowledge and skills to help create a foundation for artistic study in later years (drawing, painting, sculpture, graphic design, media arts). In each grade k-5, students explore techniques of various artistic styles, follow simple steps in the creation process, learn how to critique works of art, identify art in the world and daily life, and discover ways that artwork helps people better understand cultures and historical eras.

## 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)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

**Colorado**  
**PTA**  
everychild. onevoice.

At the end of  
Third Grade,  
students can...



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 Learning Expectations for Third Grade

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

Use specific art terms to explain what a piece of art is trying to express; identify how art is used to share a meaning or feeling.

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

Use art terms to talk about personal art and compare it to others' art work; discuss how art features like line, color, shape, and repetition are used to create meaning.

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

Experiment with art materials to create artwork from personal experiences/ ideas; use many different art materials and techniques.

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

Give details when explaining the meaning in personal artworks; explain how places and experiences help artists come up with ideas.

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

- Using art terms to explain what a piece of art is trying to say; identify how art is used to share a meaning or feeling; talking about why an artist made a work of art and the purpose of the artwork.
- Discovering how artists use specific techniques or art materials to create artwork.
- Exploring ways to plan and creatively use materials to make works of art (using clay on a two-dimensional painting to create a layered and textured effect or blowing ink through a straw to create images).
- Connecting or finding patterns of ideas from works of art from the same historical time period or from the same culture.
- Creating and sharing an "artist statement" that describes a personal work of art (how and why it was created).