



# Southmoreland School District 6th Grade Art Curriculum Overview

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Exploratory:

This course answers the question: What is art? Students learn about art's different looks and purposes. Art is divided into four areas: commercial arts, fine arts, environmental & crafts, and industrial design. Projects are grouped to experiment in these four art areas, while teaching many of the basics in art knowledge and skills. The expectation is that you develop an understanding of the basic concept of what art is. Through the activities, you will learn about your own interests, abilities, and knowledge concerning art so that you will be able to make intelligent decisions about art in your future life and/or career.

## Module Titles:

**Module 1: The Art of The Line**

**Module 2: Dreamcatcher**

**Module 3: Rainstick**

**Module 4: Zentangle ME**

**Module 5: Full of LOVE**

## Module Overviews:

### **Module 1: The Art of The Line**

This lesson introduces students to the work of Keith Haring, focusing on his semiotic messages. Students have to create their own semiotic symbols to communicate a positive message that is important in their lives. Students will be able to look at Keith Haring's symbolic messages and understand the importance of the meaning communicated. Students will choose their own message to communicate to others that will positively influence their lives. Students will create a semiotic vocabulary (6 symbols) related to their messages.

### **Module 2: Dreamcatcher**

In this module, students will learn about Native Americans, dreams were messages sent by sacred spirits. There are two different versions of the legend about how dreamcatchers work. Apparently, different tribes have different interpretations. One version says that the hole in the center of a dreamcatcher web allows good dreams to reach the sleeper, while the web itself traps the bad dreams until they disappear with the first light of morning. The other version says that the web "catches" the good dreams and allows the bad ones to slip away through the hole. Ask your students which legend they prefer as you follow these steps to create your own dream catchers.



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### **Module 3: Rainstick**

This module shows that Legend has it that the Chilean Indians invented the rainstick to make rainy weather. The rainstick is a type of tubular rattle that throughout the ages, has been used by many cultures in various ways. The rainstick has an unusual internal structure. An interior maze formed of either cactus spines, wooden pegs, bamboo or palm slivers distinguishes the rainstick from other tube rattles. The cylinder is filled with pebbles, hard seeds, beans, sand, rice, or tiny shells. One traditional method of making rainsticks is to use cactus. The spines or thorns are “hammered” inward and lava rock is poured inside the hollow tube. The sounds created when the lava rock hit the many thorns inside the cactus tube, mimic the sound of rain falling on the leaves.

### **Module 4: Zentangle ME**

In this module, students learn Zentangles. Zentangles are a fun way to increase focus and creativity. Structured patterns are created from a mind that has been freed up from the cares of the world. The patterns that are created are whimsical in nature and have been used in art therapy as a way to relax and help with insomnia.

### **Module 5: Full of LOVE**

This project presents one of many approaches we as parents, teachers, and caretakers can use to reinforce the idea that creativity can emerge in all kinds of unexpected ways – even with letters of the alphabet. Cross-curricular win-win. This super *loveable* art unit illustrates how American artist Robert Indiana (best known for his “Love” sculptures) turned words into art. These Robert Indiana teaching resources and lesson plans expose kids to several of Indiana’s kid-friendly artworks, introduce the art of typography and text in art, and help you, as facilitator, feel confident about exactly how to connect all this to a super fun, hands-on, sculptural project.