

Dear Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome you to Beginning Photography/Photoshop at Willis Jr. High. The class is a full year class in which we will learn about famous photographers, film vs. digital, camera functions, and the elements of light in photography. Students will learn to use Adobe Photoshop to modify and create their own photographs. We will also learn about Web 2.0 and the applications (tools) that go with it. Google Docs, Prezi, Animoto, Edmodo, Wordle, among others. The students will also use and share the knowledge they gain with others by working together in groups on projects.

This class will provide students with current technologies that will help them be successful in furthering their education as well as today's workplace. We will also introduce students to Open Source alternatives to costly software programs like Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, and others that will enable the students to use knowledge gained at school on their home computer.

Our goal is to help facilitate the students in their learning, but also to help grow their curiosity and confidence so they will want to continue their learning long after they leave this class.

Grading

Grades will be based on tests/projects and class participation. The breakdown of percentages is as follows:

Tests/projects – 50%

Participation – 50%

Most of the grading will be done using rubrics. Rubrics will be used to score projects in class. If there is a test given in class and a student does not do well, each student will have the ability to retake the test. However, it will be their responsibility to come into the lab before or after school to make it up. The new score will be the average of their two scores, with the final score not exceeding 75% or a C.

I understand that every child may not have a computer at home to practice items learned in class, therefore, I will have the lab open before school for students to come in to work and get help.

Classroom Rules

1. Do not interfere with the learning, safety, or well-being of anyone, including yourself.
2. Listen Carefully.
3. Raise your hand when you would like to speak.
4. No food, drink, or gum of any kind is allowed in the classroom*.

*You may bring a water bottle with a tightly sealed lid as long as it is kept on the floor.

Classroom Management Policy

If a student chooses not to follow one of the above stated rules, the following consequences will result:

1st time – Verbal warning.

2nd time – Removed from the computer.

3rd time – Removed from class. (Students will be sent to other classrooms, or to office depending on severity.)

4th time – Referral

*Any severe actions will be dealt with by the administration.

Participation

Students will get weekly participation grades based upon what is happening in class during the week. Projects will sometimes take several weeks to complete, (especially since we only meet every other day) so students will be graded on a daily rubric each day. The participation grade will also include the cooperation and collaboration with others. The grade will be worth 50% of their overall grade.

Homework

There is very little homework given in my class. I cannot assume that all students have computers and the same programs that we use at home, therefore I cannot ask students to complete assignments on the computer at home. However, I do highly encourage all students with access to computer to practice what they have learned in class.

Occasionally, students will be asked to complete work at home, and this work, if graded, will be averaged in with participation.

Attendance

Being at school is very important, especially when the majority of the work is done in class as it is with Web Design. Students will be asked to occasionally watch videos created by me to enhance their learning, but nothing takes the place of being in class. If a student misses a class period, it will be their responsibility to find out what was done in class the previous day.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to work with you and your child over the next semester. If you have any questions please feel free to call me here at school or you can email me at brown.tim@cusd80.com

Thank you,
Mr. Tim Brown