

INDEPENDENT STUDY

HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

WHAT IS IT?

Independent Study is course of study that is researched, planned and individualized by the student. It is considered an advanced course and may be taken for a semester. It is an opportunity to expand upon a body of knowledge gathered through previous instruction. The course can also allow a student to explore something new. You will not be duplicating past school art projects in this course. You will be designing your own course of study that will be submitted for approval to the Fine Arts Department. You will follow the appropriate deadlines for submission as set by Fine Arts Department the semester prior to the program.

HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM A REGULAR CLASS?

In an “instruction based” class, the teacher will introduce a topic or a process, give relevant information, examples, demonstrate techniques and present a problem to be solved. This problem solving activity takes place in a group setting where all members of the class work on the same problem. In a “independent study” class the student proposes and designs the course of study (subject to the approval of the instructor). The student must then conduct research into the chosen topic. The activity in this class is conducted independently, with little interference of the teacher. The teacher will act as a “guide” in the process, but will not be presenting or teaching the student NEW techniques.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Independent Study is an opportunity to explore a theory or concept in greater detail. It is an opportunity to take an idea further that is possible in a general art course. It allows for customizing and specializing in a topic of study. It also offers the opportunity to explore something that is not offered normally through the Holy Name High School art department.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?

It can be difficult to stay on task when you don't have formal “lessons” and deadlines being presented to you by a teacher. It may also be difficult to gauge your progress because there will be no other students working alongside you. Being a part of a traditional class generally stimulates interest, participation and relevant discussion. Being on your own may have the opposite effect. Another pitfall is the “watering down” of the course work or trying to take the “easy way out”. Just remember, the degree of difficulty is of utmost consideration in this program. Your projects are expected to exhibit “higher level understanding” of artistic subjects and materials.

AM I A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR THIS PROGRAM?

You must be very disciplined and focused to succeed in this program. Having a passion for the subject you have chosen will help keep you on track. Just be forewarned, many very good, very talented students have failed Independent Study simply because they were not disciplined. Designing an independent course of study should stem from the desire to pursue some particular theory or technique. A strong interest in the subject will lead to the formation of a

successful program. A desire to take Independent Study is not enough to fully formulate a subject or interest to pursue.

APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS:

Official registration for Independent Study is dependent on approval of the Chairperson of the Fine Arts Department. Unexcused absences from important meetings will also cause removal from being considered as a candidate for Independent Study. Late submissions will not be considered. **The following items must be completed by the required deadlines:**

- Student has already **completed** 3 Fine Arts Courses (with good standing)
- Attend Initial Information Meeting
- Individual Meeting with Art Department Advisor
- Submit Proposal Rough Draft:
 - Thesis Statement
 - Project List & Timeline
 - Images/References
- Submit Proposal Final Draft (thesis, project list & timeline, images)
 - TYPED
- Return Signed Agreement (see below)

You will be responsible for setting up an individual meeting with the art department advisor for your proposed program. We will meet with you individually to help talk through ideas and begin to formulate adequately designed rough drafts. We will not meet with you to discuss your program the day the draft is due.

You will receive notice from the Fine Arts Department when you are officially accepted into the Independent Study Program.

ASSESSMENTS

See attached for examples of project guidelines and assessments. How your work is graded may vary based on each students' individual proposal. Your Art Department Advisor will make grading clear to you at the beginning of the semester.

SAMPLE PROPOSALS

See attached for examples of accepted programs of study. Please follow this format as closely as possible. Final proposals must be typed.

AGREEMENT

By signing and returning this sheet, I state that I understand and agree to the above information.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date