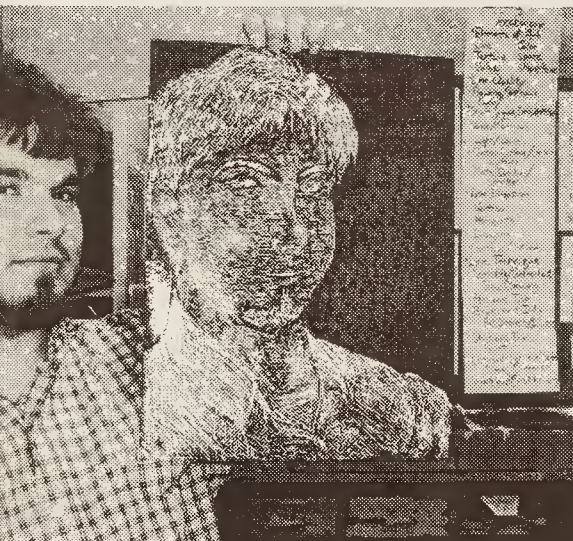


...edge their way into school, community



Leung Photos, artwork by various IB art students

...complete their pieces. Each student, like Senior Ilana Cogdell (bottom right), has



Leung Photo

...m Ball displays a self-portrait for his IB art class. Such ...vides students like Ball with an outlet for talent and pride.



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IB art class nurtures talent, inspires students

An intensive elective provides skilled art students the time and opportunity to embody their talent in various mediums of art.

By Kathryn Smith
Staff Writer

With the various art courses offered at Grimsley, some students find the task of registering for the right one to be difficult. However, students taking IB Art feel the course is right for almost everyone interested in pursuing his or her artistic talents.

IB Art is a two-hour course, open to seniors only and taught by Ms. Phyllis Moore, that focuses on expanding one's artistic talents while researching cultural and historical information on art. Critiquing each student's studio assignment is an aspect of the class as well. This focus on developing the conceptual artist in each of the students is what sets the class apart from other art courses offered.

"I've gotten a lot out of this class, mostly in the area of painting. My classmates at the same time have influenced my art, and my style has also been defined in this class," said senior Ilana Cogdell.

The two-hour IB course might seem daunting; however, IB Art students agree that these charac-

teristics are what make the class fun and interesting.

"One of the coolest things about IB Art is that it is two class periods long with over two hours to do work, in which I can do real quality pieces," said senior Jay Mattson.

Students also believe that another advantage of taking IB Art is they are allowed more freedom to create unique and personal pieces. This freedom permits students to develop their talents in various forms of art, to experiment with different materials, and to prepare for future careers in art.

"For once the teacher doesn't tell you what you can and cannot do. She gives you a title or theme, and you have to have a complete product and research to back it up. By the end of the week, I've definitely learned how to plan ahead," said senior Lara Spagnola.

The course also aids its participants in developing portfolios of their work for colleges, to which they apply. With several pieces completed every week, students find they have plenty of products to submit to college, which in many cases allows them to stand out from other applicants.

"When it came time to apply for college and put together portfolios, this class was a huge help because we complete a piece per week, which allowed me to have a complex portfolio," said senior Jennifer Harrill.

During the month of April, students are able to showcase their talents in the IB Art Show. Each IB Art student displays his or her works while family members, friends, and faculty walk around and view the students' masterpieces. Students are required to submit their work ahead of time during March and must await approval before exhibiting their art.

However, students note there are potential disadvantages to participating in the class. Because IB Art is a higher level class, more is required of each student. Those who are not serious about art are encouraged not to take the class.

"The deadlines are harsh, and a person can sometimes get behind. Some of us suffer from 'artists' block' regularly," said senior William Ball.

Despite the demanding assignments and rigorous schedule, all of the students agree that IB Art is one of the best classes offered at Grimsley. The students also agree they have grown immensely, both artistically and professionally, through the class.

"I encourage other expressionists to join this class; it's a stress reliever, and you meet a ton of interesting people. Kudos to art," said Cogdell.

If one is still unsure about which art course to take next year, IB Art proves to come highly recommended.



Leung Photo

Senior Jordan Atchison busily finishes a project for an upcoming IB art show in early April. The month of March is pure madness for many students, but Atchison and others continue to find joy in their work.