

 THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

Glass Curriculum 2020-2021

Primary School (Grades 3/4)

During the 3rd and 4th grade multi-age rock science unit, the students come into the glass studio to watch a demonstration of hot glass work and discuss some of the materials that are used to make glass - like sand, soda, lime for the clear and different minerals/elements used to make colored glass. Then, students create a "Glass Fossil" Project where nature items that they have gathered are placed onto the metal table. Molten glass is then dripped on top, burning out the organic materials while leaving a "fossil impression" in the glass.

Middle School

- **Grade 5:** During the 5th grade English class' poetry unit, students visit the glass studio for a glass blowing demonstration. Students are asked to observe the studio and glass making process using all of their senses to inspire a sensory poem. Then, each 5th grader cycles through the glass studio to create a glass sun catcher. Students select their colors and experience rolling, reheating, and shaping the hot glass to form their individual glass pieces and are then asked to write a poem based on this unique experience.
- **Grade 6:** When 6th graders study the physical and chemical properties of material, the glass studio becomes part of the learning process. Students visit the glass studio to observe and discuss the properties of glass firsthand. Students then individually cycle through the hot glass studio to create a small glass pinch pot or flower. Through this hands-on experience with the material, students have the opportunity to roll, cut, and stretch the glass to get a true sense of the material's physical properties while creating a beautiful art project of their own.
- **Grades 7/8:** The 7th and 8th grade Art MAT is co-taught to allow students to experience a variety of materials and techniques while receiving more individualized attention. One of the rotations focuses on a survey of glass making processes. During the glass workshop, students explore glass torchworking, hot casting, solid working, glassblowing, and coldworking techniques. Projects include: glass beads, paperweights, glass flowers, and blown ornaments.

Upper School

- **US Glass Elective:** In the Upper School Glass Elective, students explore a variety of glassmaking techniques, including torchworking, hot casting, solid working, glassblowing, coldworking, fusing, and kilncasting. Students learn the step by step methods of glassmaking and different ways to work with one another in this uniquely collaborative art process. Projects include: glass beads, paperweights, glass flowers, blown ornaments, cups, and bowls as well as fused tiles and dishes, and cast

sculptures. Students can continue to work in the glass studio to build more independence with the material and learn advanced techniques.

- **Open Studio (Flex):** Upper School students are invited to the glass open studio times during flex. Flex times are available to all Upper School students regardless of previous experience. Students can use flex as an opportunity to try out the material for the first time, practice developing their individual glass making skills, or work on collaborative small group projects.