



Dear Visual Art Freshman,

I hope this letter finds you about to enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable summer vacation. The art teachers at Patapsco High School & Center for the Arts are busily preparing for your arrival in late August. We hope you are as excited about your new high school experience as we are.

Everyone in our visual arts program gets enrichment work over the summer and the incoming freshmen are no exception. The information enclosed describes the drawing you will make this summer. Please bring it with you on the first day of school. This drawing will be your first grade for the new school year. In addition, all students in our program are required to complete the 30-day drawing challenge sketches in their sketchbook to practice their observational drawing skills as well as a large-scale still life rendering. Information about the sketchbook practice is also enclosed, along with a materials supply list. Please come to school with all your required materials on the first day.

I am personally looking forward to meeting you. Have a great summer and be ready for a fantastic, new experience.

Sincerely,

Beth Slater  
Visual Art Department Chair

## **Assignment 1: Observational still life emphasizing basic forms**

**Size: Any measurements between 12x18 and 18x24 inches**

**Medium: Pencil**

You will make a pencil drawing of a still life made up of objects in your house that have basic forms.

- Look for objects that look like spheres (small balls, marbles), cylinders (jar, soda can, bottle, drinking glass), cubes (cereal boxes, plastic boxes that strawberries come in), cone (candle stick holder, waffle cones for ice cream).
- Choose about 7 objects that are somewhat close in size.
- Place your objects on a flat surface where they won't be moved.
- Place some objects close to you and other objects farther away. Overlap some of the objects.
- Turn on a single light close to your still life.
- Draw the value changes (dark, light medium grays) on the surface of your objects.
- Put in cast shadows. Don't be afraid to put in some dark shading if you see it. A good drawing will have even amounts of lights, darks, and medium grays.
- Don't bother with details. We want to see the form, not the details.

## **Assignment 2: 30 Day Drawing Challenge**

For 30 days, you will respond to each prompt below in your sketchbook.

- Day 1 yourself
- Day 2 favorite animal
- Day 3 favorite food
- Day 4 favorite place
- Day 5 best friend
- Day 6 favorite book
- Day 7 favorite movie
- Day 8 favorite animated character
- Day 9 favorite thing to watch
- Day 10 favorite candy
- Day 11 turning point in your life
- Day 12 most recent accomplishment
- Day 13 comic
- Day 14 favorite fairytale
- Day 15 family picture
- Day 16 inspiration
- Day 17 favorite plant
- Day 18 just a scribble
- Day 19 something old
- Day 20 something new
- Day 21 something orange
- Day 22 something you want
- Day 23 something you miss
- Day 24 something you need
- Day 25 a couple
- Day 26 scenery
- Day 27 something you don't like
- Day 28 someone you love
- Day 29 a place you want to go
- Day 30 a congrats banner for finishing the challenge

### Supplies for Freshman Year/Visual Arts Program

Supplies for this year are minimal. You will need the following items on the first day of school. Put your name on everything except the erasers.

- Sketchbook/journal – get a blank paged sketchbook with either a wire spiral or sewn binding. Avoid the sketchbooks that have a glued binding – they fall apart too easily. The size should be around 9”x12”, nothing smaller. It should be small enough for you to easily carry around with you, in your book bag or by hand because you will be carrying it from home to school and back again every day. **PUT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME ON THE OUTSIDE FRONT COVER OF THIS BOOK IN A COLOR THAT CAN BE EASILY SEEN.**
- Drawing pencils – you will need at least three drawing pencils, a 6B, 4B, and HB. These codes simply signify different degrees of darkness a pencil can make. If you can’t find the exact number (you can find a 3B instead of a 4B) get whatever is close.
- Charcoal pencils – get three charcoal pencils for your homework. They are usually labeled the same way the drawing pencils are labeled. Buy three different degrees of darkness.
- Erasers – you will need two different kinds of erasers, a kneaded eraser and a white vinyl eraser (something like a Magic Rub from Office Depot).
- A box (tackle box) or pencil case in which to keep your materials. Write your name on the outside.
- 2 rolls of masking tape 1” wide. Write your name on the flat side of the rolls.
- 1 small pocket-sized pencil sharpener
- 1 can of Workable Spray Fixative (or 1 can of Aqua Net hair spray) – to be kept home until you need it
- Drawing board – this drawing board must support an 18”x24” paper, therefore it must be larger than that size (approximately 24” x 26” or larger). A purchased drawing board from an art store, a piece of masonite or smooth plywood can all work. Make sure there is some kind of handle cut into/attached to the board for carrying easily, or be sure it fits comfortable under your arm. You will be using this board for both class art and home art. **PUT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME ON THE BACK OF THIS BOARD LARGE ENOUGH TO EASILY READ.**
  - Some students prefer to have 2 boards, one for homework and 1 for classwork. This can be helpful but is not required
- A portfolio case – you made a portfolio case for your audition last January. If you don’t want to use that, bring in a folder piece of cardboard (or buy a paper portfolio, the kind with a flap and plastic handles) that is large enough to protect an 24”x31” paper. Do not, under any circumstances, try to talk your parents into getting you a professional black leather portfolio case. You will be collecting your finished artwork in this portfolio case because you will have a portfolio review at the end of the year and you will want to keep your work in good condition. **PUT YOUR FIRST AND LAST NAME ON THE OUTSIDE OF THIS CASE.** Can you see there is a pattern here?

These materials can be found in stores like AC Moore, Michael’s, Office Depot, Staples, Maryland Institute Bookstore, Dick Blick, Pla-Za Art Materials.