**AP®Art History: Central Academy, DMPS**

Mrs. Becky S. Johnson (becky.johnson@dmschools.org) Fall 2017

**Welcome** to an enriching opportunity! I hope you are really excited - I am!  I am passionate about all Art - but particularly this course, in its fifth year! The class was moved from RHS to Central Academy so that more students can take advantage of this unique opportunity & course. It’s a big deal.  No other high school in Des Moines offers this course!  Only 1700 schools in the USA offer it and it is a course that will set you apart on College applications.  This is a rigorous College Level course that will be the one that hones your ability to be organized, to think, speak, and write, critically and to analyze contextually. It’s not so much about memorization.  Don't worry - you WILL be able to do this and I will help you!!!  In the end, you will be so proud of your knowledge and understanding base! That said, you will have to trust and be patient. .  You will be "lent" a (very expensive & heavy) college text - that you will take home & KEEP at home.  All reading will be pre-assigned and expected to be “digested "for in-class discussion & application.  There are 2 supplemental books that you need to buy **– Barron’s AP Art History Test Preparation Guide – available at Barnes & Noble or Amazon, and The Annotated Mona Lisa by Carol Strickland.** There are a few other organizational items that you will need to purchase and they will be listed on your syllabus. The course is being re-designed this summer, so syllabus will follow in August. The newly designed course will be divided into 10 Content areas and require thorough knowledge of 250 AP identified art works. \* See attached list. (This versus having vague knowledge of thousands!) Go ahead and start looking these images up on line!

**Course Description:**

This course is designed as a high-level, challenging course with similar rigor to that found in the collegiate classroom. We will operate under college-level assumptions, the first of which is that you are interested enough in this subject to take the course and, therefore, are willing to do the work entailed in learning the material. Art History is an introductory survey course dealing with the history of art and its evolution from ancient to modern societies. AP Art History covers approximately 30,000 years of art creation, from the Prehistoric and Neolithic periods to 20th Century, Postmodern, and current art trends. Though a brief survey of Asian, African, Islamic, and other Eastern Art is studied, the bulk of this year-long class covers mainly Europe and the rest of the Western World. The course studies historical transition of art periods, as well as how culture, religion, government and history reflect the personal and sociological art trends throughout the existence of humans.

**Summer Reading:**

* “Skim” through the **Barrons** – cover to cover.
* **Read The Annotated Mona Lisa –**cover to cover