

**IRVING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
POLICY STATEMENT  
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART**

**ORIGINALITY AND INTEGRITY**

**Middle school students develop creative attitudes that prevail throughout their educational careers and their lives as consumers, enjoyers, and makers of art. It is the responsibility of the middle school art teacher to encourage original thinking and a sense of creative integrity at every opportunity. With this in mind it is essential that every IISD art teacher adopt and support the following policy.**

*Photographic imagery provides a valuable resource for any artist, teacher, or student. Appropriated images are readily available and are commonly used in the world of professional art today. However, it is the responsibility of the art teacher to assure that students from an early age understand the difference between copying from the work of an artist or photographer and creating original and unique work. Students must be guided to the understanding that direct copying from any photograph or work of art may be an exercise that leads to skill development, but never results in the creation of an original work of art. Colleges, art schools, and Advanced Placement guidelines support this position and strongly stress the value of working from direct observation.*

*Students who make use of borrowed images must demonstrate a creativity and sophistication of approach that transcends mere copying. This may be demonstrated through manipulation of material, formal qualities, design and/or concept of the original work.*

*Teachers must encourage students to create artworks inspired by their own knowledge, experience, and interests. Students must understand that copying work without significant and substantial manipulation is an infringement on the rights of the original artist or photographer and can constitute plagiarism. Teachers and students must become knowledgeable in regard to copyright law. The growth in the use of computer software, scanners, xerography, and photography brings this issue to the forefront as one of significant concern.*

Portions of this policy are inspired by the Advanced Placement statement of acceptability for the submission of Studio Art Portfolios.