Move over macaroni necklaces. Technology has landed in K–12 arts education, and it’s becoming as common in art classrooms as paintbrushes and pastels.

Student artists of every age are using tablets and phones to sketch, draw and paint. For art teachers, that technology is fostering students’ 21st-century learning skills. Better yet, it’s upping student engagement in art and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) spaces.

This blog gives an overview of how art teachers are using technology in arts curriculum, the benefits, and how art classroom furniture can help students channel their inner muse, whether they’re using traditional or high-tech tools.

The specificity of decorative painting classes allows you to effectively develop creative imagination, good aesthetic taste, interest and love for folk art, art of the native land in junior schoolchildren. Children get acquainted with the peculiarities of arts and crafts, they develop creative skills and skills to independently perform a variety of decorative and design work. Particular attention is paid to the disclosure of the artistic expressiveness of folk art to students. The content of decorative and design work includes the execution of patterns, ornaments, sketches of decoration of household items, sketches of holiday cards, banners, exhibition stands, wall newspapers, elements of book graphics, etc. Decorative drawings are made on the basis of decorative processing, generalization of the shapes of objects depicted from nature - leaves, flowers, butterflies, beetles, and the compilation of patterns and ornaments from them. In the process of making decorative drawings, students begin to understand the close connection between the practical purpose of an object and its shape, material, decoration elements, learn to distinguish a successful, expressive solution to decorate a thing from an unsuccessful one.

The artistic expressiveness of the very form of an object is capable of evoking aesthetic feelings, emotions, for example, a feeling of joy. A concrete image gives this feeling awareness, say, the joy of the beauty of the Russian white-trunk birch, which the artist organically introduced into the decor of the object. A symbolic image is a conventional image denoting any concept, idea, phenomenon. In a narrow sense, a symbol appears as a conventional sign, for example, a five-pointed star, or as a monogram - the interweaving of the first letters of the name and surname. Symbolic images include emblems, coats of arms, signs (postal and factory, banknotes, medals and orders). Very often they use allegory - allegory. Nature has always been the main source of ornament creation. On the skins of snakes, caterpillars, animals, wings of birds and butterflies, on plants and fruits, nature "painted" wonderful patterns, revealing to humans an infinite variety of ornamental forms, color shades, the beauty and richness of their combinations, integrity and strict subordination of all elements. A man, fascinated by the beauty and fabulous diversity of nature, enjoyed, carefully studied this beauty, sought to use the laws underlying it, and created new ornamental forms in order to decorate things and his life with them.

Many works of folk artists are examples of genuine art, in which form, decor and content are in an indissoluble unity. For centuries, people have selected perfect forms in nature, joyful color combinations, stylized them and created new ones, surprising and delighting with their ingenuity and taste. The art of all the peoples of our multinational Soviet country has reached a brilliant flowering.
Also used in painting is a mesh ornament of stripes and cells filled with circles, dots and strokes. The color scheme of painting is determined by the predominance of warm or cold colors. In the first case, the brightness of, for example, yellow, orange and red elements is enhanced by small elements - blue or green. Otherwise, blue, blue and green sounds are accentuated by a pink, red or orange element. Such a tactful inclusion of a contrasting color in the painting increases its emotional impact on the viewer, helps to avoid variegated colors, and to achieve a harmonious fusion of all elements. Various techniques of work: clear strokes of petals and leaves of dark blue color or strokes with soft blurred edges are applied with the whole brush with abundantly saturated paint, with different pressure; with the end of the brush, veins, shading and whimsically curved stems and antennae are applied; with a brush moistened with paint on one side, by turning around the handle, a “smear with shadows” is obtained, that is, a multi-colored image of a volumetric petal or leaf. Often, the dark blue color of the painting is enriched by the sheen of thin golden lines and strokes that depict the veins and outlines of leaves and flowers. If the white surface of the product is entirely painted with cobalt, creating a cornflower blue background, then the painting is applied only with gold.

First, the figures are coated with starch and dried, and they become whiter than snow. Then they begin to paint them with feathers and brushes. And first of all, they bring out their favorite large pink-crimson rosehip flowers on each. The same ones that grow in front of their houses. But for days, most of the Pol-Khmaidan women also work in the fields and farms. And all the same, when they come home, they immediately sit down at the tables, on which are placed bottles of ink and paints and feathers and brushes are laid out. And schoolgirl daughters will definitely sit down with them. And the old ladies. And even girls of four or five years old always ask to be admitted to these tables. Because, can you imagine how interesting it is: to draw blazing flowers myself - albeit not very successful ones yet! - Matryoshka's eyes and a bow-shaped mouth ... Ready-made toys are placed to dry right on the floor. And the more they become, the faster and more beautifully new ones turn out, and any hut turns into a fairy kingdom.

Education in a modern school cannot be built without taking into account the processes taking place in society and the latest trends in art; everything that the child sees and hears should be reflected in the lesson. Therefore, the main condition for organizing fine arts lessons at school is diversified development, poly-artistic education and innovative teaching technologies. Polyart education is based on the proposition that every child is initially predisposed to perception and activity in different types of art: he sees, hears, feels, and perceives at the same time. The task of a teacher of fine arts is to develop as harmoniously as possible in children the inclinations given to them by nature and to form their ability to perceive the world in artistic images. Fine arts lessons should be organized in such a way that children, on the one hand, have the opportunity to do a lot with their own hands, on the other hand, they can independently build their thought logically (in word, image, sound), be relaxed in creativity, not be afraid of the new, unexpected. The creation of fabulousness in real space is attractive for younger students and is of great importance in the development of their fantasy and imagination. Real space is revealed as a special world of its constituent objects, in which various transformations and transformations take place. In the process of perception, real space is compared with artistic space, and creative action - with reincarnations of fairy-tale characters in space among objects.

In the modern world, computer graphics are increasingly penetrating into all spheres of human life and activities. Therefore, it is very important to conduct fine art lessons using a computer, where a child can simulate both the real and the fantastic world, create characters of different plasticity, character and mood. Working at a computer, a child sees that a desert landscape easily turns into a sea landscape, and a daytime one into a night one. This game is addicting. The computer makes it easy to change not only the color, but also the shape of the object, and, consequently, the character. So, for example, with the help of computer technology in the third grade, you can solve the following tasks: teach how to build landscapes, depict fairy-tale characters and perform simple compositions; develop the ability to sensibly capture the nature of the lines and the change in the figurative structure of the work, depending on the change in the nature of the lines and color; develop a sense of compositional balance, dynamics and proportions; develop the ability to compose a recognizable image from geometric shapes; to educate the culture of perception of the landscape genre as a way of reflecting the beauty of the surrounding nature; to develop the ability to perceive abstract compositions.

Visual arts are different from other subjects, and their content should not be reduced to the category of a standard school lesson. There are many forms of occupation, among which the following can be distinguished:
- a lesson in the format of a reportage from a virtual trip to a museum exhibition (here an important component is preliminary homework preparation, during which students can supplement the event with drawings, photographs or music);
- a lesson in the format of a virtual trip (here you can include excursions along architectural monuments, the study of famous sculptures, park areas and landscapes);
- a lesson in panorama format (working with reproductions of famous paintings);
- a lesson in the format of a quiz (during this lesson, students unite into teams and answer questions in the field of fine arts, music and literature; during the quiz, the children cope with the teacher's tasks and prepare their own questions);
- a lesson in the format of a game (in this lesson, students become designers, artists, decorators or representatives of other creative professions);
- a repetition lesson that can take place in a playful way (in this lesson, the student can try himself in the role of a teacher.)
- integrated interdisciplinary lesson. Teachers of different subject areas can work here and even students from different classes.
- lesson project. Here children can try to implement their creative ideas in collective work under the guidance of a teacher.

- lesson improvisation. Students can try to combine different materials and create mixed media paintings.

- a lesson in the format of a competition (such a lesson is aimed at testing theoretical knowledge and practical skills, and it is conducted in the form of a survey in a competitive game form);

- lessons in the format of cognition (consist in the study of new terms and techniques of performance);

- a lesson in the format of acquaintance with a variety of visual techniques (here you can include drawing with wax pencils along with watercolors, splattering, blotting, drawing with threads, salt and using other materials that help students feel the material and show their personal imagination).

- a course of lessons in fine arts in graphic programs, for example, ArtRage. In such lessons, which combine the tasks of ICT and art, children can master both the program itself and various theoretical and practical topics and techniques on the subject of art. In addition, these lessons are conveniently conducted online.

- online lessons of fine arts. Such classes can be individual and group. Now there are more and more courses designed for this format of teacher-student interaction. Children can study from home and not even miss lessons while in the hospital. Drawing in programs, students do not need a lot of materials, while mastering the possibilities of various techniques and materials. Such as oil painting, drawing with pastel, pencil, marker, virtual watercolor, etc. Even disabled children and children with special needs can attend lessons organized in an online format and at the same time successfully master the educational material.

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