The Toledo Museum of Art is dedicated to working with teachers and students for a variety of learning experiences. Use this guide to learn more about our framework for learning, approaches to visual literacy, and how a gallery experience connects with your classroom curriculum.

**OUR APPROACH**

**Your students will build skills and connect with standards.** K-12 experiences support Ohio’s New Learning Standards in Fine Arts, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science & Math, as well as fosters the development of the four C’s of 21st-century learning: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will make connections between classroom learning and the Museum experience, exercise their creative and analytical skills, and increase visual literacy using the language of art.

**We promote visual literacy.** The Toledo Museum of Art is making visual language education a priority, using its world-renowned collection to serve as a teaching resource. Close looking strategies and visual literacy activities are utilized on docent-led tours to develop the ability to make inferences about the meaning of works of art.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

**We believe less is more.** Tours focus on approximately five works of art. This focused approach gives students time to develop observation skills and critical thinking. At the Toledo Museum of Art, the journey to understanding the visual world begins with close looking and observation.

**We recognize that people learn differently.** We engage students through a range of learning strategies, including open-ended and guided questions, conversation, small group activities, drawing, and writing.

**Customize your Museum experience:**
Enhance your curriculum and deepen your students’ learning with curriculum-based experiences that are tailored to the specific needs of each class. Coordinate a series of visits to explore relevant topics to achieve learning goals and build visual literacy skills.

**Current Exhibitions**
Visit our website [toledomuseum.org/art/exhibitions](http://toledomuseum.org/art/exhibitions) for the most up to date exhibition schedule.
SPEAKING VISUAL: TMA FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING

We live in a digital age, a world where visual information is more important than ever before. Twenty-first century students need to be able to read the world through the process of vision. To do this, they need to know the alphabet, vocabulary and grammar of seeing.

The Toledo Museum of Art has developed a framework for teaching students visual literacy skills. It involves 3 important steps that allow you to explore art—or any image in your daily life—on a deeper level:

STEP ONE: BUILDING YOUR VOCABULARY

Think of describing as taking a careful inventory of what you see. To take “inventory” of an image, it’s helpful to know the language used to describe works of art. The building blocks of formal language are the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.

STEP TWO: LEARNING TO LOOK

Learning to look involves a 6-part process that allows you to explore art—or any image in your daily life—on a deeper level:

STEP THREE: UNLOCKING THE MEANING OF IMAGES

The Four Visual Languages: Close looking is the gateway to understanding the visual world. Once details have been absorbed, an image is primed for analysis through the lens of Form, Ideas, Symbols, and Meaning.

Images are quickly superseding words as our primary form of communication.

Half of all the photographs ever taken have been taken in the past two years, and we upload 1.8 billion images to social media every day.
ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE GRADES (K–5)

GRADES K–2

Art of Seeing Art: Learning to Look
60 Minutes
Develop close looking skills by observing and describing the Elements of Art.

Creatures Great and Small
60 Minutes
Explore the importance of animals, real and imaginary, in art from various cultures.

Paintagories
60 Minutes
Discover that paintings—like books, movies, and music—can be categorized in a variety of ways.

ART OF READING + STUDIO | PRESCHOOL–KINDERGARTEN

Learn the vocabulary of art: lines, shapes, color, and texture. Participate in gallery-based activities and story time connected with the chosen theme. Tour is 1 hour with an optional 30 minute studio session extension. Limit 50 students per visit.

GRADES 3–5

Art of Seeing Art: The Language of Art
60 Minutes
Using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design as vocabulary, unlock the meaning of images.

Art Tells a Story
60 Minutes
Identify the roles of plot, character, setting, and sequence as applied by visual artists. Use writing prompts and gallery activities to tell a story about a work of art.

Sculpture: All Around
60 Minutes
Explore objects and materials used to make 3D art. Weather permitting; tour can include outdoor works in the Georgia and David K. Welles Sculpture Garden.

WORDSHOP

GRADES 5–8

Practice writing and increase vocabulary by practicing in gallery-based writing activities. The Wordshop experience includes a pre-visit activity and post-visit materials to extend learning. Tour is 90 minutes.

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MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADES (6–12)

GRADES 6–8

Art of Seeing Art: The Language of Art
60 Minutes
Using the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design as vocabulary, unlock the meaning of images.

Molten Magic
90 Minutes
Learn how different cultures throughout history have made and used glass. Explore the galleries in the Glass Pavilion and see a glassblowing demonstration; tour and demonstration are 45 minutes each. Wednesday and Friday mornings only. Limit 60 students.

PICTURING HISTORY | GRADES 6–8

Examine the art of the past to learn about cultures from across time and geography. Schedule one, or a series of visits on any of the topics below. Supports Ohio’s New Learning Standards: Social Studies 6-8th and includes gallery-based activities, in addition to pre- and post- visit lesson plans. Tour is 90 minutes. Limit 60 Students.

Topics:
- America
- Ancient Egypt
- Greece and Rome
- Art of Glass
- Medieval Period
- Renaissance and Reformation

GRADES 9–12

Art of Glass + Glassblowing Demonstration
90 Minutes
Learn how different cultures throughout history have made and used glass. Explore the galleries in the Glass Pavilion and see a glassblowing demonstration; tour and demonstration are 45 minutes each. Demonstration available Wednesday and Friday mornings only. Limit 50 students.

Art of Seeing Art: Speaking Visual
60 minutes
Analyze and interpret works of art through the four visual languages: Form, Symbols, Ideas, and Meaning.

Drawing in the Galleries
Self-Guided
Drawing helps students develop cognitive skills. Drawing materials are available by reservation and include prompts and ideas for students to look closely and apply visual language. Drawing in the Galleries is available at 11:15 am. Limit 50 students.

EKPHRISTIC WRITING
GRADES 6–12

Enhance creative and critical thinking skills by writing poems in response to works of art. Tour and writing activities are 45 minutes each. Students are encouraged to continue the writing and editing in class and submit their completed writing to the annual Ekphrastic Writing Competition. Tour is 90 minutes.
RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

TMA offers a wealth of materials and activities based on our collection and special exhibitions for preK-12 educators.

For more information or to schedule contact Grace Toth at gtoth@toledomuseum.org

REFERENCE LIBRARY

The TMA's Reference Library is an art research library that reflects the museum’s collections and exhibitions. In addition to books, periodicals, and DVDs, resources include discovery boxes for educators and documentary information on Museum collections. Educators are invited to use the Library, free of charge, during public hours. Search the library catalog: toledomuseum.org/education/reference-library

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY!

We are accessible: Stools are available at the Plough entrance and throughout the galleries. In addition, wheelchairs are available at each entrance. Touchable objects and modifications are available with advanced notice.

We like to plan ahead: Both docent-led and self-guided groups must fill out a tour request form and submit at least three weeks prior to the preferred tour date. Once the tour is confirmed, your docent will contact you by phone or email to discuss the museum visit and what to expect during your tour.

You can schedule your visit online: toledomuseum.org/education/guided-tours/school-tours

OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

Weather permitting, groups are welcome to bring sack lunches and eat at the picnic tables on the TMA grounds.

Student tours are free and bus parking is free for all K-12 docent-led tours.

We request that you bring at least one chaperone per 12 students. Additional chaperones are welcome to visit the galleries on their own or visit the Museum Café during the students’ touring time. Your confirmation materials will include a helpful guide for chaperones.

Limited bus subsidies are available to help schools defray transportation costs for docent-led tours. To apply, fill out the section titled “Bus Subsidies” on the tour request form.

As of 2016, the US Department of Education announced that federal formula grants can support efforts to improve Pre-K–12 instruction and student outcomes in the humanities, including museum visits.

TMA TEACHER LEADERS

The TMA Teacher Leaders program provides area educators with the skills and knowledge to use Museum collections, pedagogy, and resources in their classrooms and apply visual literacy to their subject areas across the curriculum.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

All visitors, staff, and contractors will be required to wear face coverings when inside TMA buildings. These changes are meant to create a safe and enjoyable museum visit during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, prioritizing the health of staff and visitors. Please review our COVID-19 procedures, found on our website: toledomuseum.org/visit/overview. All procedures are subject to change based on CDC, State, and city guidelines.