



Best Practices for Teaching Art Online

Check out these tips and inspirations for teaching art remotely from some of our favorite educators.

Communication is key. When communicating with students and parents, keep things short and simple. Clarity is the goal—it's okay to be more direct than usual.

- Instead of telling students everything about a topic, hyperlink to information that will provide deeper explanation whenever possible.
- Keep the text short—if it's too long, you'll lose students before they even start reading.
- Use bold headings and highlight the most important components.
- Remember, pare things down as much as possible—embrace the “less is more” approach here!

Embrace the limitations. Setting limitations can have a profound effect on fostering creative thinking.

- Utilize the weekly design challenge routine and suggest using materials students can find easily at home. Think about what students may or may not have on hand and offer solutions when alternatives are required.
- Focus on the positive and keep the expectations realistic, simple, and engaging. If students are making art at home, you've already won!

Set Routines. Just like in your physical classroom, routines provide stability and a sense of normalcy in an otherwise unstable time. As you transition to virtual communication, establish routines as much as possible.

- Send communications at the same day and time each week.
- Keep due dates or check-ins consistent.
- Set a schedule that is easy and becomes part of the natural rhythm of this new time.
- Try establishing a creative challenge or weekly prompt. This will keep students engaged and on-task while keeping the expectation for engagement consistent.

Keep it simple. Look closely at your learning goals and objectives and think about the variety of ways students could achieve those goals. Paring down to the most essential skills and offering options for students to display their knowledge will pay off in the end. It's okay to adjust your expectations—we differentiate and pivot to meet the needs of our students every day, this is no different!

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Connections are important. It's okay to ask how your students are doing and confirm that you are okay and are happy to see them thriving in this situation.

- Encourage them to create artwork to process their feelings in a productive way. Provide positive support and reinforce a growth mindset as much as possible.
- If coordinating a group chat or video class, provide clear parameters for engagement. Educator Oscar Keyes suggests using the Rose-Thorn-Bud method. Have everyone take turns sharing something positive (rose), something they find difficult (thorn), and something hopeful for the future (bud).
- Try facilitating a collaborative drawing using a platform like **Aggie.io** to spend time creating together.
- Remember to provide students your contact information for when they have a question or need guidance about the art-related tasks.

Take care! We often put the needs of our students before anything else. Remember that we can't care for others if we are running on empty. Take this time to recharge, get some sleep, and most of all, take care of yourself. It's essential to pay attention to yourself physically, emotionally, and mentally. Make art, have fun, and laugh every day! Ask for help when you need it and stay connected as much or as little as you need to!

Davis Digital can help make things easier! Keep reading for ideas on using Davis Digital with your remote learners.

Davis Digital for Remote Learning

Davis Digital accounts and resources are perfectly suited for teacher-guided at-home learning, or self-guided exploration. Check out the following list of best practices and ideas that you can implement to engage students.

- Get **on-demand training** with the step-by-step user guides and tutorial videos on **Help.DavisArtSpace.com**.
- Sign up for a **free Davis Digital Training webinar**. Login to the platform and check out the Events page to see what's coming up.
- Use the eBook Share feature to **email a lesson** to students, parents, or colleagues.
- Use Davis Art Images to **create sets of fine art images and share** them with your students.
- Have students go on an art scavenger hunt in Davis Art Images. Give them a fun theme to guide their search, such as weirdest image, most beautiful landscape, interesting portraits, best use of color, etc.
- **Compare and contrast** two artworks from the Davis Art Images Library. Hint: Take a screenshot of the comparison pop up and post to your online classroom to share it with students. You might also post it to a virtual online bulletin board such as Padlet and have students discuss the artworks asynchronously.
- Use the Curriculum Builder to **create a lesson that combines all of your content** in one page—images, videos, text, content from Davis eBooks, slide presentations, and your own library of online resources. Share your lesson with your students so they can access it when they log in to Davis Digital (using the generic student accounts we provided). See our Curriculum Builder user guides for more information.
- **Create a shared Portfolio** that parents, community members, and students can access without logging in to Davis Digital.
 - Post ideas for fun art games or processes students can do at home with household objects or found materials.
 - Share information about your art program or updates on school activities.
 - Move your year-end art show online by sharing your students' artwork.

The Davis Digital Team can be reached Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST at 800-533-2847 ext. 2 or email Support@DavisArt.com.

