MANDALAS
TAKE NOTES & WRITE ALL VOCABULARY:
Write down the following information that is Numbered & underlined. It will be graded & will be on your tests!
The Mandala

An Ancient Art Form
What is a Mandala?
The word “Mandala” means “circle” in Sanskrit, which is an ancient Indian language.
1. Mandala = Circular pattern

- Circle with a center;
- Symbolizes wholeness & life;
- Circle of eternity
Your project: Create a Mandala!

- **Objectives:** Your mandala should be...
  - A circular pattern; 360 Degrees around
  - Radially Balanced
  - Meaningful to you
  - Symbolic with drawings
  - 9 x 9 inch paper
  - Colored in Prisma color pencils with fades, blends, tints & shades!

- **What you will learn:**
  - Cultural Symbolism
  - Historical connections
    - Radial Balance
  - Mathematical connections
  - How to use a compass
Mrs. Meisner’s Example:
2. Radial Balance - circular balance in an artwork

Whatever you do on one side of the circle, you must balance the same thing on the opposite side to create a sense of radial balance.
In some cultures, the mandala is a symbol of life
3. Mandalas have appeared throughout history in many religions & cultures
Many churches throughout the world have stained glass windows with mandala designs

- The Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris is famous for its rose windows
4. The Aztec Calendar was both a timekeeping tool and a religious expression.
NATIVE AMERICAN INSPIRED MANDALA

This is a mandala created with the image of Huichol, the Corn Goddess
5. Navajo Indians & Tibetan & Buddhist Monks make SAND Mandala’s to show the impermanence of life
American Navajo people create impermanent sand paintings which are used in spiritual rituals.

A Navajo sand painting ritual may last from five to nine days and range in size from three to fifteen feet or more.
In ancient Tibet, as part of a spiritual practice, monks created intricate mandalas with colored sand made of crushed semiprecious stones. The tradition continues to this day as the monks travel to different cultures around the world to create sand mandalas and educate people about the culture of Tibet.

Tibetan monks also create SAND MANDALAS to demonstrate the impermanence of life.
Sand Mandalas created by Buddhist monks

Composed of millions of grains of dyed sand, the mandala is believed to have a positive effect on all who see it as each particle personifies goodness.

It symbolizes the pure, perfected universe, and provides a visual framework for establishing feelings of peace, well-being and wholeness.
6. In Asia, the Taoist "yin-yang" symbol represents opposition as well as interdependence.
7. The Buddhist mandala shows that life is circular and does not end. Buddhists believe that we are reborn many times so that we can keep learning about life. This is called *reincarnation*. 
The geometry that Buddhists use to create the mandalas is considered to be sacred.
Math connections!

- We will use a **ruler** to divide our paper.
- We will use a **compass** to draw our circle.
- We will work with **fractions** (8 equal sections)
- We will draw our design in $\frac{1}{8}$ of the circle. Then trace it in all the other sections to achieve **radial balance**.
“THE SACRED CIRCLE”

In religious art, the mandala is used to symbolize wholeness - the circle of eternity.

However, the pattern of a mandala -- a circle with a center -- reaches far beyond a two or three dimensional art form.

Examples of mandalas are found in nature. Every cell in our body, iris of our eye, a snow crystal, a bird's nest, flowers, the sun, the moon… Draw some examples!

Can you see more mandalas in your surroundings?
8. Mandalas are in Nature: “Circle with a center” pattern is the basic structure of creation.

It is reflected from the micro to the macro in the world as we know it.
It is a pattern found in nature and is seen in biology, geology, chemistry, physics and astronomy.
LET'S LOOK AT SOME EXAMPLES OF MANDALAS!
8. Symbols in art: A picture that represents another idea.
The following mandalas were created by people from around the world, and submitted to a website called "THE MANDALA PROJECT".

HTTP://WWW.MANDALAPROJECT.ORG/INDEX.HTML
The purpose of this web gallery is to promote connections between artists. You may even submit your own mandala to be displayed online if you want!!

Along with their mandalas, many artists have included text describing their mandala as well as their email address and website information.
This image was created for the fall-equinox 2000. The center image of the mandala is an ink drawing of mine and the hands are also mine. This was all put together and colorized in Photoshop. It feels very much like a self portrait.
10 daisies, & 10 lotus flowers, each with 5 petals ~ 25 years as soul sisters ~ And 20 purple petals enclosing the circle are 20 more to come!! Beautiful ~ Inspiring ~ Centering ~ Never-Ending...
The Mandala is truly the most perfect symbol of our friendship!
I started coloring, then drawing my own while recovering from an illness. The experience is meditative for me, often leading to flashes of memories from my life and dreams. And I get to transform feelings like "Frustration" into colorful patterns!
Planet Earth is surrounded by 6 angels—Birth, Life, Death, Body, Mind, & Spirit—All connected, as we are... If every tear shed for this tragic day flowed freely, surely the river would have washed all of the hate from this world. The rainbow encircling our universe is a symbol of God's promise, & never ending love for us... A reminder to be kind to each other...
I created this mandala on the computer in photoshop using photographs I took of butterflies.
The colors in this mandala are based on the numerology of my name, and I also added three personal touches—parts of this mandala are made from French candlesticks (I'm half Cajun-French), dragon sculptures, and a horoscope pattern I created to make my own natal chart.
Gansser recognizes in his work the destructive half of the human spirit, the dark side that wages war, destroys, celebrates ignorance and scars the surface of the planet and the beings that inhabit it.
I like to find little pieces of my environment to transform. With my mandalas, you can focus on texture, shape, and color, and still be able to detect the original subject on closer observation.
In the piece "La Vida" the energy is growth. I elevate the vibrating elements and color in the original painting through a repetitive use of part of it’s image and then positioning it in an upright stance, it portrays and reemphasizes this energy into an all expanding realm which is life.
Look at the space created in this mandala by the use of overlapping and shading. The creator was obviously inspired by music and instruments, as well as elements of nature.
It is basically symbolic of my life—messy, complicated, intertwining patterns, sometimes dark but mostly bright and multi-colored, and imperfect.
Namaste means "May the divine in you see the divine in me". We are all members of the same tribe called humankind. When we see ourselves reflected in everyone and everything around us.. We are truly seeing Namaste.
My anthropology studies have put me in touch with Indian ascetics widely known as Sadhus. I was deeply influenced by their behavior, appearance and philosophy. The following picture was created from an images of a Sadhu, revealing the hidden dimensions of his being.
I’ve always like mandalas. First I was fascinated by the Buddhist ones. As time passed by, I saw huge amount of mandalas. Even nature offers so much of them. So I created many mandalas using images of flowers and other natural objects. In this one you find an orchid I have photographed on Maui, HI.
Student Examples:
YOUR MANDALA SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Representations of objects, thoughts, beliefs, colors, or symbols that are meaningful to you.

Will your mandala have a theme?
How will you make it symbolic?
What things can you include?
Things you can include

- Designs with lines & basic shapes & colors.
- Earth, Trees, flowers, sun, moon, rainbow, clouds, rain drops, lightening, fire, stars
- Dragonflies, butterflies, lady bugs, etc.
- Themes: Music, sports, art, saving the earth, recycling, religion, spirituality, love,
1. Using a 9x9 piece of paper, you will draw lines to split the paper in 8 sections using a ruler.

2. Then, you will draw a circle using a compass on top of the lines. This will create 8 pie pieces.

3. Trace one of the pie pieces into your sketchbook several times. This is where you will do all your drawings.

4. The mandala is created by tracing only!! So once your one little pie piece is drawn, all that’s left to do is tracing!

5. We will also use tracing to create the outside border design, which will frame the circle.

6. Once drawn, we will color the design using colored pencils.

Here’s the basic idea, I’ll give more detailed instructions when we begin…

The basic premise of the mandala design, is that whatever you do on one side of the circle, you must balance the same thing on the opposite side to create a sense of radial balance.
BE SURE YOUR PIE PIECE DESIGN:

- Is Not too complex (you have to trace it 8 times!!)
- Has Lines that are touching all outside edges
- Contains objects that overlap to create depth
- Doesn’t have large negative spaces… fill that space!!
My sample to demonstrate overlapping, and connecting lines
Let's make some flippin' sweet mandalas!!