**Italian Renaissance Art**

**Important Information (An Overview):**
- Humanist emphasis on individual talent inspired Italian Artists to express their own individual values, attitudes & emotions
- People began to appreciate & glorify the secular world
- Art focused on the natural world & communicating human emotions
- Art stood out on the canvas in 3 dimensions (3D)
- Artists sough to make their subjects as lifelike as possible (a break from the past)
- Art no longer focused just on religious subjects
- Renewed interest in ancient Greece & Rome led artists to include classical mythology as well as biblical themes in their work
- Artists learned to create a sense of perspective, giving their paintings depth
- Artists often studied anatomy to portray humans accurately & naturally
- Great Artists were seen as being geniuses & their work was appreciated during their lifetime
- Nobles & townspeople used art to decorate houses & churches
- Painters began a more realistic style
- Artists departed from the flat, mostly symbolic medieval style

**Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)**

- Exhibited the Renaissance ideal of the ‘universal person’
- Was an engineer, botanist, astronomer, mathematician & artist
- Dissected corpses to learn about the human body
- Exhibited great skill of conveying inner moods through complex facial features
- Often failed to complete his art works and showed erratic behavior
- Artist in residence later in life at the French court of Francis II
### Raphael (1483-1520)

- Born and died on Good Friday
- Worked at the Vatican with Michelangelo
- Best known for his many paintings of the Virgin Mary – reflected grace, harmony and beauty
- *School of Athens* – perfect example of Renaissance art technique (painted for the Vatican palace library); includes Plato, Aristotle and other philosophers from antiquity, god of reason, goddess of wisdom, the artist himself and his rival, Michelangelo
- He’s buried in The Pantheon in Rome

### Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)

- Intensity made him a genius
- Used knowledge of anatomy in sculptures
- Considered himself a sculptor, not a painter, resenting the pope’s commission to paint the frescoes for the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, considered one of the great masterpieces of the Italian Renaissance (took 4 years to complete)
- *The David* – good ex. of harmony, proportion & glorification of the human body; symbol of Florence & heroic ancient king
- Revealed the simplicity of art to others
- Adopted the style of Mannerism later in life; 4 popes commissioned him to do work