### Drawing Pencil Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extremely Hard- 9H to 7H</th>
<th>Very Hard- 6H to 5H</th>
<th>Hard- 4H to 3H</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium Hard- 2H- H</td>
<td>Medium- F to HB</td>
<td>Medium Soft- B to 2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft- 3B to 4B</td>
<td>Very Soft- 5B to 6B</td>
<td>Extremely Soft- 7B to 9B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Hard graphite
(Produce very light values)

#### Standard school pencil

#### Soft graphite
(Produce very dark values)

What do the numbers and letters on pencils really mean?
- The higher the number printed on the pencil, the harder the writing core. A harder core means a lighter mark left on the paper.
- As the pencil core becomes softer, it leaves a darker mark as and it leaves more graphite material on the drawing surface.
- Softer pencils will dull faster than harder leads and require more frequent sharpening.
- The “H” marking on a pencil stands for hard as the “B” stands for black. The “F” marking is for fine meaning it will sharpen to a fine point.
- Graphite pencil cores are a blended mixture of graphite and clay. By varying the ratio of graphite to clay, pencil manufacturers adjust the pencil core’s “hardness”.
- Pencil makers set their own internal standards for graphite hardness, so various brands results will differ.