

Evergreen Elementary Art Studio

Collaboration and Team Teaching

When teachers create connections across the curriculum, children are able to make meaning in lasting ways. The arts, in particular, offer a rich palette for exploration in a wide range of content. Examples include bookmaking for enriching poetry and storytelling, patterning creation with drawing tools, weaving projects and beadwork, for mathematical reasoning, vegetable prints for biology or nutrition, and social studies and culture through 3D constructions and collage. Learners are limited only by their imaginations as they communicate and extend their learning through their artwork.

I welcome your ideas for curricular connections in our art studios. We'll add them to the binders that contain ideas for each studio and add photographs of student work as pieces are created. A current copy of your year long plans would be helpful, as would updates or requests as you work through themes throughout the year. Children appreciate having choices in art class that relate to their work in their regular classrooms.

If you have an idea for a project with specific objectives that might work better with whole group instruction, involves tight rules for a final product, or requires a complex series of tasks that have to be completed in sequence, we can consider team teaching. I am protective of your students' art time because of the depth and breadth of the Grade Level Expectations and Essential Academic Learning Requirements that are assigned to my content area. That said, I've developed the following set of procedures we can use for special projects.

Special Project Protocol:

Each teacher may commandeer one of their students' art sessions this year. To do a special project, he or she will:

- make arrangements as much in advance as possible (ten school days is optimum)
- join the students in the art class, (since our studios are devoted to student choice we're set up for small group work rather than large, unison projects. The shift to whole group with the attendant need for help with production details and equipment will be more likely to be successful with a team teaching model.)
- collaborate on the lesson plan before sharing it with children, so that we can tailor it to TAB (choice-based and student directed)as much as possible. The more your idea requires strict replication of a single product the more distance there is from choice-based art. We can deviate somewhat from our model but it's important to craft projects carefully so that children with perfectionist leanings or narrow artistic interests are engaged.
- provide unusual supplies if they're required (I'm glad to share information on what stock I keep on hand) and be prepared to help replace material stores that are heavily impacted by whole group instruction.

Because I spend lots of time at school, I'm happy to offer the possibility of kids working on things before or after school – within reason. I can also offer to come and advise or consult

during my planning time if you'll give me advance notice and arrange your lesson schedule to fit with mine.

Specific to resources:

You're welcome to borrow some things from stores (brushes, fancy scissors, etc.) as long as they're returned or replaced. Replacements should be the same or similar brand. Here are a few examples: red washable tempera in a pint bottle comes back as red washable tempera in a bottle, a dozen multi-colored pipe cleaners replaced by the same, and a yard of brightly colored cloth replaced by another colorful cloth. I don't mind the drive to the nearest real art store (50.6 miles, one way) once in a while and will provide you with a price list for your convenience if the item you want to use isn't available locally.

Some things don't need to be returned - corrugated cardboard, non-designer yarn, small fabric scraps, newsprint, etc., but if you're going to wipe out the toilet paper roll intake for a week, I'll expect you to have your students replace it within a week so other classes can enjoy fully stocked studios.

Please feel free to discuss your ideas with me so that we can work together to enrich our kids' learning.