

Murray Avenue Art Appreciation Program Basics

Mission: To help children learn how to LOOK at art and how to TALK about art.

Method: By introducing them to important artists and/or artistic styles, by looking at and discussing artworks as a group, and by experiencing unique art techniques through hands-on art projects.

The Team: A 3-member Art Appreciation Committee, plus Class Volunteers (**see List**)

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List of Parent Volunteers: You will receive a list of the Parent Volunteers who have signed up to help. Please make sure your name and vitals are on it. One parent from each class has been designated as the **Contact Person**. That person should oversee scheduling in-class presentations. Please email/meet/contact the other parents in your child's class and coordinate how you'd like to work together. Ideally, any parent who wants to present will get to present one artist and any parent who is presenting should attend the Committee Presentation. You need a minimum of 2-3 parents per presentation: one to present, one or two to help with the project. Volunteers work together to choose dates that work with teacher and calendar.

Volunteer Responsibility: 1) To attend instructional presentations by the Committee (schedule below). 2) To make a presentation to your child's class about each artist/art movement and to oversee a related hands-on art project.

Time commitment: 1 hour per meeting; 1-1.5 hours per in-class presentation + project, including clean-up.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR OWN PRESENTATIONS!

A. COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS:

This year we plan to explore the work of two American artists Georgia O'Keeffe and Norman Rockwell. The O'Keeffe presentation is Friday, November 6 and the Rockwell presentation is Friday, February 5. Please make sure you complete the O'Keeffe presentation for the children by the end of January, and the Rockwell presentation by the end of April.

At each meeting, the Committee will present an artist and related project idea(s) to parent volunteers. Though attending the presentations are beneficial (and fun) for all the volunteers, if that is impossible, please make sure that there is at least one parent volunteer from each class at each one. Meetings are held at 9:15 a.m. in the Murray Cafeteria (check TigerTalk). At these meetings, you will view the artworks to be explored with the children and you will receive Presentation Notes and instructions on a hands-on project(s) for the classroom.

B. ART APPRECIATION HQ: Art Appreciation now has a dedicated PTA cabinet in the basement. DIRECTIONS: Walk into school by office. At Library, turn left. Go down stairs and cabinet is at base of stairs. It is black(ish) and has the words "Art Appreciation" on the front. In the cabinet you will find:

1.) Sign-up Calendar: Sign up directly onto Art calendar for the DAY and TIME you wish to use the portfolio and supplies for your in-class presentation. Please put the TEACHER'S NAME and YOUR NAME /PHONE NUMBER on the calendar. Before doing so, check with the teacher and volunteers for workable dates. Please leave 30 minutes between sessions.

2.) Portfolio: A large black art portfolio with the artist's name on the outside will be stored to the right of the cabinet. In it you will find a copy of the presentation notes, the mounted posters you see at the presentation, and any other instructions, books, or related materials. PORTFOLIO MUST BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESENTATION.

3.) Art Supplies: A box or crate will hold all of the supplies you need to do the suggested projects with the children. PLEASE CHECK SUPPLIES a few days before your presentation to make sure you are familiar with what is provided and that quantities are sufficient. Please call

the Committee Chair listed on the Presentation Notes if more supplies are needed. (If you are doing a project that differs from what is suggested, you need to provide your own supplies.) SUPPLIES MUST BE CLEANED, NEATLY RESTOCKED, and RETURNED to cabinet IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRESENTATION. **In the rare case the materials/ portfolio is missing from the supply cabinet please check the scheduling calendar for last class/parent volunteer who used materials and contact them.

4.)Photocopies: You will find copies of presentation notes, volunteer list, & letters home.

NOTE: We will try to make all materials available via email and website, too.

C. YOUR OWN IDEAS! Our hope is that we provide you with everything you need for an effective presentation and fun project. But many of the finest Art Appreciation moments have come from the creativity of Parent Volunteers and from sharing personal experience. So feel free to customize, especially if you have a specific knowledge of the subject, if you have your own idea, or if you speak to the teacher and find there is curriculum crossover.

D. NOTE TO PARENTS: It is the Parent Volunteer's responsibility to provide a letter that goes home with the children on the day that the in-class presentation is done. This letter tells the parents what you did in class, tells them to look for the resulting art projects when they visit the school, provides parents with some of the words and lingo discussed, and lists local/regional exhibits where the children can see artwork firsthand. Please do not forget to provide this letter: The Committee provides a sample letter for you to edit and photocopy.

TIPS FOR PRESENTING

-Schedule about 20 minutes for presentation, 30-40 minutes for project, and make sure parents can stay to clean up. If the project is a messy one, consider booking the small lunchroom and setting it up there. To do that, you must go to the main office and request a time.

-Try not to READ presentation notes. The sooner you get to the artwork and start asking the children to talk about what they see, the more engaged they will become. It is more important that the children discuss the art than that they learn art history.

-Check your email: Volunteers often share tips on making the project go smoothly and the Committee will forward any updates to you.

How to Work With Teachers and Murray Staff:

TEACHERS: Please ask teachers which days/times are best for an in-class presentation. Take the time to tell her/him what you are doing. Some teachers like to be involved and have ideas about how topic relates to curriculum! PLEASE CLEAN UP THOROUGHLY.

ART TEACHERS: Murray art teachers are happy to share their insights into working with kids on art projects, especially regarding abilities and art materials. But all questions about project supplies and administrative issues should come through the Committee.

LIBRARIAN: Ms. Tanenbaum is also very excited about Art Appreciation! When possible, she will try to display books relating to our Art Appreciation subjects in the Library.