

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

St. Patrick Catholic Home and School Association

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It can be argued that art is part science, technology, engineering and part math (STEM).

Engineers are already creative people, just look at their creations! Can art be part of STEM? Presented for your consideration: The well-executed business plan or research project proposal, deceptively simple or beautifully complex. The architectural design of the Eiffel Tower, the stateliness of the Golden Gate Bridge. The beauty of the Fibonacci sequence in nature as seen in the pattern of Zinnia florets or in the arrangement of pinecone bracts.

A DAY IN THE ART CLASS. AN INTERVIEW WITH CANDICE METCALF, ART TEACHER

What is a typical day in your classroom? On a typical day, the students will be creating some type of art. We did a unit on Matisse and all the students created some type of artwork inspired by Matisse's use of bright colors, and organic and geometric shapes. The older students, did a Matisse inspired collage, the 5th grade did collage name panels. The 3rd and 4th grade students did their interpretation of his painting The Goldfish, 1st and 2nd grade did tracings of their hands filled with colorful geometric and organic shapes and K students did their first initial surrounded by fun, colorful shapes. All classes are learning about the five elements of shape and how they are used in their art work. Also, grades K thru 4 will have some guided art lessons to help them learn to draw.

What equipment do you use in your classroom? In art we have lots of fun with "equipment"! We use pencils, crayons, markers, Sharpies, chalk pastels, oil pastels, water colors, tempera paints, scissors, construction paper, special patterned papers, rulers, and all kinds of special paper for watercolor or drawing. We will also use modeling clay for sculpting.

What is most challenging for you? The most challenging part for me is the logistics of having a class first thing in the morning who will be using tempera

2017-2018 ALL SCHOOL MASS SCHEDULE

All-school Masses are on Thursdays at 8:15 AM. Join your children in worship when you can. It is a great way to support their spiritual growth (and yours, too)!

Nov 1st – 6th grade All Saints Day (Wednesday)

Nov 2nd – 5th grade All Souls Day

Nov 9th – 4th grade

Nov 16th – 3rd grade

Nov 30th – 2nd grade

Dec 7th – 8th grade

Dec 8th – 7th grade Immaculate Conception (Friday)

Dec 14th – 6th grade

Dec 20th – 5th grade

Jan 4th – 4th grade

Jan 11th – 3rd grade

Jan 18th – 2nd grade

Jan 25th – 1st

Note: K-5th grade Masses are on Wednesdays at 8:15 AM. 6th – 8th grade Masses are celebrated on Fridays at 8:15 AM.

paints, and then the next class is doing a project involving markers and drawing paper. All the paints need to be put away to make room for markers and paper for the next group. That's why I use trays for many of our activities because they can be picked up quickly. You just need to have materials together ahead of time and ready to go.

What is most challenging for your students? The most challenging thing for the students is to try and turn a mistake that has been made on their paper into something that is good and looks as if it was part of their art work. I want them to learn that art is not about being perfect. If they can look at a mistake and use problem solving skills to correct it, that's a big step. I try to be patient and encourage a student who is having difficulty. Sitting down and talking to them about what the problem may be is helpful. And you always want to be positive because art should be about using your imagination and creativity. You want them to have fun.

How do you measure success? I measure success in seeing the students enjoy the process of making art and creating something they are proud of. Learning is growing and I hope that the students will grow to have an appreciation of the arts and in being creative, whatever that may be.

How does Art contribute to the students' day and overall academic success? Are there cross-curriculum implications? What is your hope for the future of your Art students? Studies show that art helps in analytical thinking and reasoning. I've already seen some of my students, as young as kindergarten, proudly tell me how they corrected a mistake in a drawing or painting and made it work. This is so much better than tossing the paper in the trash and getting a new one. They have actually corrected the problem in a constructive way. Art also improves motor skills, language development, visual learning and inventiveness. All of these skills are used across the curriculum and every day in their classrooms. In the future, when they are adults I hope they will have an appreciation for art and be a well rounded person.

What do you do outside of your classroom subject for fun? I have several hobbies. One of my favorite is reading. I love reading all kinds of books, it doesn't matter if they are fiction or nonfiction. I also enjoy walking, gardening, decorating, and cooking. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

Paint and Sip!

It's back! Paint and Sip is the adults only evening of painting and sipping your way to creating your own masterpiece! Paint and Sip is a fund raiser for the art program at St. Patrick School. Fifty percent of every registration fee will be used to purchase supplies for the art class. Saturday, Nov 18th will offer a step-by-step painted wine glass for \$15. The event will take place at the Parish Center from 7 to 10 pm. A registration form and information was emailed to all school families. Print and fill out the form and return it along with your payment to the school office by Tuesday, November 14th. Additional forms are available in the school office. Geniece Medsker is the coordinator of this event. You may contact her with any questions: gmedsker@yahoo.com. Come create and sip! In one night, you'll make yourself a new masterpiece, new friends and benefit the art program. These projects also make great Christmas gifts! The Blue Donkey, a local art studio, will provide the art instruction and all art supplies. Bring yourself, your friends, snacks and/or a drink, and be prepared for some fun!

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, November 6th No School
Teacher in-service day.

Tuesday, November 7th 6:30 pm
Home & School General Assembly Meeting Parish Center

Thursday, November 16th **Mid-Quarter**

*Wednesday, November 22nd –
Friday November 24th* No School
Thanksgiving Break

Friday, December 8th 9:30 AM
Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 20th **End of 2nd Quarter, Early Dismissal at 12:30 pm. There will be NO AFTERCARE.**

*Thursday, December 21st –
Tuesday, January 2nd* **Christmas Break (No School)**

Wednesday, January 3rd 2018 –
Classes Resume All Day