

Artsonia Announcement

Hello Rider families! Welcome to the final art studio newsletter of the year! Exciting announcements, updates, and ideas are included throughout.

I was able to get approval for our **digital portfolio** system and have that up and running for the current 1st-4th graders!

Here is the link to **view our school** and all of the projects created and documented so far: <https://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=192667>

You may have seen a **registration slip** sent home with your student this week. **Registering gives you access to your student's account and artwork collection.** *If you did not get your slip you can use the url and code below to register.*

<https://www.artsonia.com/connect/HXDRZK75>

Code: HXDRZK75

So far I have one to four projects per grade level documented. It is an immense labor of love photographing all of the pieces (I have photographed almost 1,000 works), but I hope with time the students can do it themselves.

The main benefit to this portfolio system will be the **ability to track your child's growth as an artist.** You can also see the project descriptions and what standards we were working on. Plus, less pressure on you to keep physical copies of works. An added bonus is that you can also order items with their artwork printed from Artsonia. That portion is completely optional but the art room does get 20% of sales for supplies.

1st Grade

1st grade finished their "Sky" paintings after reading "Sky Color" by Peter Reynolds and moved on to **designing their dream homes!** This was part of our school wide "Dog Days" project but we also read, "If I built a house" for inspiration. Then students practiced reading and writing responses about their dream home, and started making our dream home drawings. Most of these dream homes have been photographed and uploaded to portfolios, or sent home. I encourage you to ask your child to explain their dream home, as the stories I heard are fabulous.



Dream home complete with poison pool to keep out bad guys, poison giraffe to guard the home, escape rocket powered by poison string, and bedroom at the very top. - D.D., 1st grade.

2nd Grade

2nd grade students finished their paintings inspired by **Jean-Michel Basquiat**. The final step was to take **oil pastels** and add an outline to our figure to add **contrast**, and details in the background. They were also invited to optionally add **free association words** to the background. Essentially, any words that popped in their heads that were positive and school appropriate.

Next we also moved onto designing our dream home as a part of the Dogs Days excitement. There are still a few classes who have not started that yet since I see the second graders on a 7 day rotation.



3rd Grade

3rd grade students also finished their paintings inspired by **Jean-Michel Basquiat**. The final step was to take **oil pastels** and add an outline to our figure to add **contrast**, and details in the background. They were also invited to optionally add **free association words** to the background. Essentially, any words that popped in their heads that were positive and school appropriate.

I asked third grade students to **design their dream pet** as a part of the Dogs Days excitement. We also made accessories for our pets and will be cutting them out as paper puppets. It is very fun to see what animals students pick and how they interpret the drawing portion!



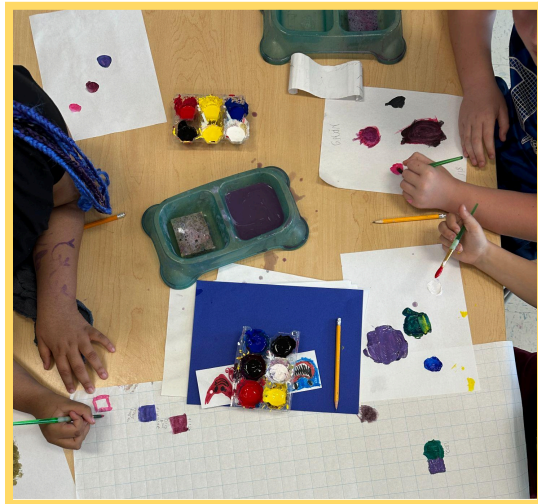
4th Grade

4th grade finished their Notan Designs discussed in the last newsletter and have moved on to their own Dog Days project. Since they are my only class that had not painted yet, I have them creating **vegetable paintings with sharpie line drawings and watercolor palettes**. (There is a chapter in their book that discusses vegetables.)

Before we started that project I gave each class a day to just experiment with **color-mixing tempera paints**. They got a grid sheet of paper and the primary colors + white and black and were challenged to mix as many colors as they could. I also asked them to give each color they made a name.

When we moved onto our vegetable drawings we talked about filling the page

when drawing and adding layers for visual interest/movement. I noticed a lot of the students wanted to trace their vegetables from chromebooks, so I will be working with them on more still life and drawing exercises next year to boost their confidence.



5th Grade

I noticed the 5th grade students had a lot of questions about how to achieve certain colors when working on their **make it better challenge**, so I also gave them a day to just experiment with color mixing and naming colors.

By this age most students have identified themselves as “artistic” or “not” despite any outsider rebuttal, and art class can become a sort of threat to their egos. (This intimidation factor can also lead to task avoidance.) I think it is important to give students low-threat projects that allow them to feel successful doubtless of final results.

With that being said, we moved onto our Dog Days project which was **designing a park**. I heard a lot of, “I can’t draw,” so I

encouraged students to draw these parks from a bird’s eye view, which just requires simple shapes and park paths. It also had a written planning portion for those who feel more comfortable expressing their ideas in writing.

They were able to **decide whether their park would be a playground, skate park, or dog park**. Some even landed on water parks or amusement parks.

Good luck to all of the 5th graders leaving our school and to the families embarking on the middle school journey! I hope you have a wonderful summer. Thank you for sharing your students with me for this short time.

Summer Art Opportunities

[Blue Star Families](#) has partnered with tons of museums nationwide that offer **free entry to military families** from Armed Forces Day (May 20) through Labor day. [Here](#) is the map with participating museums. You can search by State. It could be a fun bucket list thing to do this summer!

The **Arts League of Dover** also has a whole summer arts brochure you can check out [here](#). The **Art Museum of Delaware** has several youth art classes available [here](#). The **Rehoboth Art League** has some summer camps available [here](#).

[Google Arts and Culture](#) has a ton of free resources for exploring the arts, including art based games, if you are looking for enriching screen-time this summer.

Artwork going home

Students should be bringing any art they have made with me home by the end of next week! Next year hopefully we will have enough handle paper bags to have portfolios to carry artwork home at the end of the year.

Art room donations

Thank you to everyone who has sent in some recycled donations over the last few weeks. Here is the list again (with an addition of shoe boxes) in case anyone needs to review.

Free items to donate:

- **Newspaper** (great for covering tables, using as throw away paint palettes, etc).
- **Large, good condition brown paper bags** (used to make student portfolios/take home work at the end of the year). Handles included are preferred so it is easy for them to carry them later but normal large brown bags are acceptable
- Egg half of **egg cartons** (used as little wells to hold tempera paint). Does not matter if they are paper, plastic, or styrofoam
- **Shoe boxes** (I have plans for these next year)
- Cardboard **Toilet paper rolls** and **paper towel rolls** (can be used as paper mache structures, circle tracing, etc)
- **Magazines** are great for printmaking and collage

If you are interested in supplying other materials, we seem to always be short on **pencils, erasers, and glue sticks**. **Tissues, hand sanitizer** and **clorox wipes** are also a wonderful supply to receive as the art room sees hundreds of students *every week!* We

fly through them. I am also starting to collect **craft felt pieces**, random **buttons**, **embroidery thread**, **thick white paper plates**, and **shoe boxes** for a few special projects next year.

Have a wonderful summer!

I am looking forward to creating more art with your students next year and hearing about summer adventures when we return.

Best,
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