

Tips for Teaching Art at Duniway

Create a stress-free Art experience for our children by being well prepared .

Helpful Things to Consider

- 1) Download lessons from the Duniway website several days before teaching.
Duniwayelementary.org (under parent pages)
- 2) Completely READ THE LESSON several days prior to teaching it. Please do not wait until the last minute – over coffee in the morning, for example, does NOT allow enough time to prepare to teach our children the same day.
- 3) Look at the sample files for each grade to see what has been done before. They are located in the Flat Files by the windows in the Art Room.
- 4) Become familiar with the Art Room and where supplies are located. Plan to check your needed supplies well in advance. If there isn't enough of something, contact our supply girls. They need time to restock, so please be considerate of their schedules and give them enough notice.

- Kris Marcus (503.730.3365)
- Michelle Smit (971.212.7882)
- 5) Familiarize yourself with how the projector and computer works. There are many wonderful images provided for each lesson. Images of student art as well as art by the Masters that apply to the Duniway Lessons. If you have questions, you can ask Joann Chow, or Michelle Smit for guidance on using the computer/projector.
- 6) Bring in additional resources. If you don't feel comfortable using slides and a projector, make sure you have books from the public library, the Duniway library, prints from the art room file, or other samples to show students. Samples are VERY IMPORTANT – please don't skimp on this.
- 7) Do a practice sample at home. Find out what works and what doesn't by actually using the art room supplies ahead of time. This is great to do with your kids at home.
- 8) Know what you are going to say and how you will say it. Rehearse your lesson. Make some notes to yourself. Practice in front of the mirror if necessary. The lesson plans don't give you a script of what to say, so you need to be prepared in your mind.

9) Study, and learn the topic you are about to teach. Wikipedia.com is a great resource for information. So is the public library, as well as our own Duniway Staff. Just ask them! Many teachers have tidbits and interesting facts they'd love to share. They have also seen our lessons being taught year in and year out so they are a great resource.

10) Dress the part. What did Picasso wear? A straw hat perhaps?

11) Plan what classroom control techniques you'll use. Find out from the classroom teachers what techniques they use. Ask your own kids what works in their classes.

For example:

- One, Two, Three, Eyes on me. (Kids say, One, Two, Eyes on You).
- Lights out
- Clap Clap, Clap Clap Clap. (Students repeat exactly).
- Stop the music if you have background music playing.

12) Have something in mind for the children who finish early.
Consult the classroom teacher ahead of time to find out their preference. Some suggestions are listed below.

- Return students to their classroom.
- Choose a book to read from the book tub in the Art Room.
- Write in the journals provided for each student. Located in the art room with each student portfolio.

11) Make sure you have assistance - other parents to help with set up and clean up. Allow adequate time before class for setup. 20 minutes - ½ hour

12) If teaching in front of a classroom makes you nervous, do it with someone else! Take turns speaking, and resting. Having another teacher to fill in the gaps that you might forget, alleviates some of the anxiety associated with talking to a captive audience.

13) Get pumped and excited about the lesson and your enthusiasm will be contagious to the kids too. Art is meant to be fun and enjoyable, and we are after all, volunteers! You don't have to be perfect.

