

# Discovery PTSA Art Docent Program

Art Docent Handbook

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## Welcome Art Docents!

As an Art Docent at Discovery Elementary, you will help bridge the gap between funding and art education for our kids. [You are an indispensable part of this program – THANK YOU!](#) The Issaquah School District has over 350 art docents each year providing over 4,500 hours of volunteer instruction at the elementary school level.

So what do you do? Art Docents are expected to teach 4 classes throughout the school year that address the learning objectives for their grade.

Our purpose is to support the art learning standards of Washington State while offering students a positive experience with art by exposing them to various materials and artists. We will be introducing the elements and principles of art, art vocabulary and art criticism; while encouraging personal artistic exploration and expression. Thanks to a grant from the Issaquah Schools Foundation, we have a curriculum which includes: [topics for each grade level](#) based on the elements and principles of art, a set of art prints on our [One Drive](#), posters, and suggested art projects. We are looking forward to another year of making art fun, engaging, and accessible.

Remember: your Art Docent Coordinators are always here to help. Please contact us with any questions you have. Our goal is to help you feel confident teaching art classes that are both fun and educational. We are all in this together so please share your ideas and projects. It's as simple as making a physical copy of your lesson plan or emailing it to one of your coordinators.

We all have artistic ability inside us. Allowing your creative side to develop will be evident in your lessons and teach our kids to use art as a tool for expression.

Thank you for volunteering your time and enthusiasm to the PTSA's Art Docent program. We truly appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely your docent coordinators,

Jeannie Sprague & Holly Quinnett

## Art Docent Coordinators:

Jeannie Sprague [jeannesprague@gmail.com](mailto:jeannesprague@gmail.com)

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## Curriculum and Resources:

- ❖ ISF Artistic Support - Art Lessons by Grade <http://isfdn.org/art-docent-lessons-by-grade/>

## Useful Websites:

- ❖ ISF One Drive <https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AFnQXysQdomJE-o&id=C6EB9FF74DAE3E6C%21272&cid=C6EB9FF74DAE3E6C>
- ❖ [www.facebook.com/IssaquahPTSAArtDocents](http://www.facebook.com/IssaquahPTSAArtDocents)
- ❖ [www.kinderart.com](http://www.kinderart.com)
- ❖ [www.pinterest.com](http://www.pinterest.com)
- ❖ [www.mrsbrownart.com](http://www.mrsbrownart.com)
- ❖ [www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/grade-level](http://www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/grade-level)

## Explanation of expectations:

- ❖ Attend an Art Docent introductory meeting
- ❖ Read the Art Docent handbook and follow up with any questions you may have
- ❖ Plan 4 lessons this year that introduce an element of art or principle of design, some works of art as examples, discuss what they see and then explore the element or principle of art focused on through a project (three for kindergarten)
- ❖ Work with the teacher and other docents to create a positive experience for each child
- ❖ Stay within budget or donate the over flow
- ❖ Before purchasing supplies make sure we don't already have them in the supplies cabinet
- ❖ When purchasing items we do ask you to turn in your receipts for two reasons: to keep our program within budget and let us know if our budget is realistic. *\*\*We truly appreciate the generosity of our parents BUT we need a true financial account of what it costs to run this program\*\**

## What to do first:

- ❖ Contact your teacher and set up dates to teach lessons for the year. Planning out the whole year in advance is recommended.
  - You may have an opportunity to integrate your lesson with what they are currently doing in class. It will make both your project and their curriculum more memorable.
- ❖ Go through the lessons and make a rough plan your projects for the year.
- ❖ Will you need additional resources, like using the kiln (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)?
- ❖ Meet with the other docents from your class/grade level to discuss lessons, swap ideas, share prep and coordinate projects.

## Art Lesson Rules:

- ❖ **Have fun**
- ❖ There are **no wrong answers** when discussing art, support and encourage all reasonable views
- ❖ Your students are the artists. Let them **independently complete** the project.
- ❖ **Know your age level** and adapt the lesson accordingly
- ❖ **Focus on the process** of the art project, not the end product or appearance of the product.

## Teaching the lesson:

### One week before:

- ❖ **Meet with your co-docents** to pick a lesson. Resources can be found online [here](#).
- ❖ **Email your teacher** to remind them of your visit and if you need anything, in particular (i.e. smocks, etc.)
- ❖ Ask for other **parent volunteers** from your classroom, if needed
- ❖ **Make a demo** at home so you know what to expect from the materials and how long it takes
- ❖ Choose your visual aids: e.g. slides or posters
- ❖ **Gather** your tools and supplies. The Art Docent cabinets are usually stocked with commonly used materials. Buy remaining supply needs and save receipts for reimbursement from the PTSA.
- ❖ Find out where to dry your projects, if needed
- ❖ Coordinate with the instructor to put up your projects up outside the classroom. Make a label for the art and hang pieces on the hallway wall. It's your kid's art gallery!

### One hour before class:

Coordinate with the teacher for set up time, or prep outside of class, if the class is in session. If you have scheduled your time after a recess or specialist time, you may be able prep in class.

### Lesson Time:

- ❖ Introduce yourself
- ❖ Explain what you are going to do
  - talk about the art
  - how to be an artist
  - clean up
- ❖ Tell them which element or principle of art you are focusing on
- ❖ Show visual aids, examples/PowerPoint/posters
  - Ask open ended questions
  - There are no wrong answers when discussing art (only inappropriate ones)
- ❖ Have the students sign their art work first thing, often on the back, so that you can get it back to them later
  - Praise their work by noticing something specific about it
  - Take pictures of the kids while they work if you can
- ❖ Allow time for clean up
- ❖ Teaching schedules are tight so please be respectful of the time you are allotted.

### After the lesson:

- ❖ Finish clean up
- ❖ Put away clean materials in an orderly manner in the Art Docent cabinets
- ❖ Please clean out all paint brushes using soap and water, as they do get used by a large number of people

- ❖ Discuss with your fellow volunteers how it went and what could be improved; make notes on lesson plans
  - ❖ Set aside two or three lessons to show for the art walk
  - ❖ Turn in any [receipts with the PTA form and envelope](#)
    - After the class room budget is spent only tax receipts will be issued
- \* Turn in your notes and your art example to your coordinator for future use by other docents. This program only gets better when we build on each other's success.\***

#### Kiln work:

- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> & 5th Grade can do a glass project
- ❖ One clay project per class
- ❖ Only those people who attended the training may run the kiln
  - This is due to the insurance coverage of the school district
  - If you need help ask your coordinator
  - More trainings will be scheduled

## Twenty Six Reasons Why Art Is Good For Kids

1) Art develops both sides of the **brain**. 2) Children who make art **read** better and do better in **math** and **science**. 3) Allows children to **express** themselves and learn about who they are as **individuals**. 4) Art builds **self-esteem** and is **empowering**: “look what I made.” 5) Art is something to **share**: it builds **connections** to friends, family, and community. 6) Art teaches **risk taking** and learning from one's mistakes. 7) Art teaches the use and **care of tools**, and builds a relationship to the material world. 8) Art develops **hand-eye coordination** and higher-order thinking skills. 9) Art teaches **open-ended thinking** and creates an environment of **questions** rather than answers. In art there is no right or wrong answer. 10) Art teaches children that there can be **more than one solution** to the same problem. 11) **Art nurtures the human soul**. 12) 33% of children are **visual** learners. 13) Art **develops focus** and increases attention. 14) Art provides a **common ground** to reach across racial stereotypes, social barriers, and prejudices. An artist's **palette** has many different colors. 15) Art steps out of the limitations of time and allows a child to be **present in the moment**. 16) **Art is beautiful**. 17) Art opens the heart and mind to **possibilities**. 18) Art is a way to see and **understand the world** around us. 19) When art is integrated with other curriculum areas children become more **engaged** in the learning process. 20) Children can **share** and reflect on their art to learn about themselves, each other, and the world they live in. 21) Art teaches one to explore playfully without a preconceived plan, learning from accidents, being surprised, getting **beyond the fear of mistakes**. 22) Art awakens the **imagination** and allows the magic to flow. 23) Art creates direct **observational skills**, learning to **see the extraordinary in the ordinary**, seeing things that otherwise would be missed. 24) The earliest evidence we have of **humanity** is through sculptures, rock carvings, and cave paintings. 25) **Art develops instincts**. 26) A Van Gogh painting sold for 83 million dollars.

*“A fundamental purpose inherent to most artistic disciplines is the underlying intention to appeal to, and connect with, human emotion.”*