

August 21, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break, and now we are getting ready to dive into a new school year! The first few weeks are always heavy with learning new procedures and routines, and this year will be no different in the Art Room, to ensure class runs safely and supplies are used responsibly.

Students are allowed to have some kind of old t-shirt, smock, or apron if you want them to protect their uniforms from messier art supplies. The younger grades that already require old t-shirts will be allowed to bring those to class, and older children can keep this in their locker until they need them.

Please encourage your students to be good citizens and keep the room clean and organized as well as using supplies the way they are meant to be used. This means to use only what you need and don't waste, and when it's time to clean up, everyone pitches in to put things back where they belong and clean up messes properly. No punishments for making messes; sometimes art can be messy. But I try to acknowledge and encourage students to be on the lookout for misplaced supplies and garbage and help to put things in their proper spots. Oftentimes students borrow supplies and forget to return them - this is okay, just let them know to bring the borrowed supply back to the Art Room or their teacher as soon as they can.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. Talking to your children about proper behavior really does help in the classroom. The purchases some of you made on Artsonia have helped me buy supplies for the Art Room so we can continue to create more fun art projects and learn new things! Some of you generously donated things to the Art Room by buying school supplies through School Tool Box, which I greatly appreciate as well. All of your generosity and support help keep the art program moving onward and upward!

I also wanted to let you know my expectations for art class. Many students get upset if they don't finish an artwork in one period or before I grade the work. Art is not just about the final product; much of it is about the journey. I grade based

on what your child does in class. If they are working hard, putting in effort to complete the project according to the rubric, and if they should get "stuck", doing creative problem solving (not sulking and pouting about not wanting to do the project), but the project isn't complete, THAT'S GREAT! I want the children to create artwork that they are proud of, and if incomplete, maybe they want to finish it on their own time. If they are goofing off in class, talking more than working, wandering around the room, using supplies improperly, and not helping to clean, that will impact their grade negatively.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at ccasey@stsymsschool.org and I will respond to you as quickly as I can.

Have a wonderful school year!

Mrs. Christina Casey

SEVEN DEVELOPMENTAL BENEFITS OF THE ARTS

Simple creative activities are some of the building blocks of child development, including cognitive, social and emotional skills.

Participation in the Arts positively affects your child's:



1 MATH CONCEPTS



Creating patterns and learning time signatures teach problem solving and numeracy

2 DECISION MAKING



The need to make decisions and choices in the course of creating art strengthens problem-solving and critical thinking skills

3 VISUAL LEARNING



Drawing, sculpting, and threading beads on a string all develop visual-spatial skills

Kids learn to interpret, criticize, and use visual information and make choices based on it

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



Provides opportunities to learn words for colors, shapes, and actions

7 Offers an opportunity to talk about what feelings are elicited through music and art

MOTOR SKILLS



Playing an instrument, using a paint brush, scribbling with a crayon, and shaping clay develop gross and fine motor dexterity

6

INVENTIVENESS 4



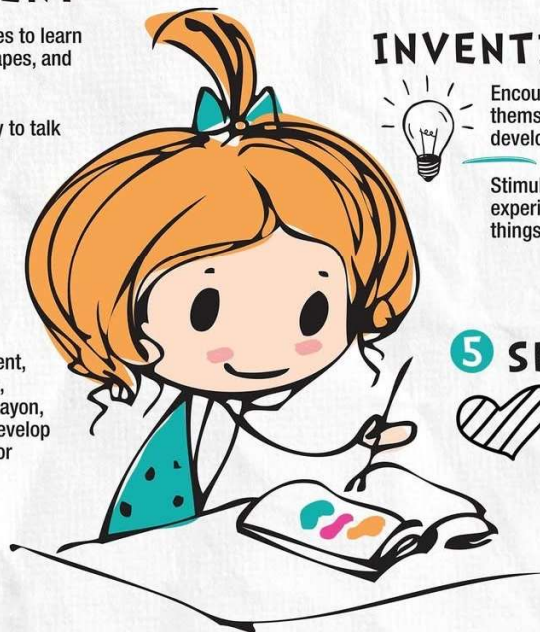
Encourages kids to express themselves and take risks, which develops a sense of innovation

Stimulates the process and experience of thinking and making things better

5 SELF-ESTEEM



Gives kids the autonomy to express themselves



Adapted from "The Importance of Art in Child Development," PBS for Parents