

TEACHING TIPS

FIRST VISIT

- Be sure to introduce yourself and the Art Masterpiece program to the students. Let them know that you will be in their classroom about once a month to share with them a new artist and to do an art project together to help them learn about art. Be clear that it is not a “how to draw” or “arts and crafts” class. It is art appreciation!
- Discuss the difference between a print reproduction and an original.
- Let them know that they are going to try new techniques and grow their art skills. Their role is to try their best. Not all of their pieces will be masterpieces and that is ok!

ONGOING

- Be on time as the teachers are on a set schedule. Going over your allotted time may affect the rest of their day.
- Be prepared but stay flexible in your lesson.
- Write the artists’ name, art style and art terms on the board as you teach your class. This helps the students retain the information.
- Place the date of the artwork in a historical era appropriate for the grade level. (i.e. This was painted around the time of the civil war...)
- Talk to the children on a level appropriate for their age.
- When you discuss the artist bio, touch upon interesting facts. A complete biography is too much information. The students are interested in when the artist lived and died, and any unusual facts about their life or information on the artist’s childhood.
- Talk about the art medium used (i.e. oils, watercolors, charcoal etc.)
- Finish lesson and begin activity while interest is still high.
- Give activity instructions prior to handing out supplies.
- During the activity, walk around the classroom to give praise and clarify directions.
- Be responsible in handling the print. Make sure you return it and any supplies at the end of your lesson.
- Have students assist with clean up at the end of your activity.
- If you cannot teach a lesson, be sure to let your teacher know and to reschedule the lesson.

PHILOSOPHY

- Be cheerful and enthusiastic; if you're having fun they will too!
- Asking questions about the artwork will help students share their feelings, use their imagination, and stimulate conversation.
- Do more listening than talking. Use open-ended questions with "how" and "why" to promote their answers.
- To keep the students involved, write their answers on the board to reinforce the lesson and give the kids a sense of accomplishment and inclusion.
- When a student gives an answer, avoid saying "no, that's not right." Say something like, "I hadn't thought about it that way" and then sway the dialogue to the correct answer.
- Be objective. Don't project your like or dislike of an artistic style or piece.
- Accept the children's right to like or dislike a picture. Don't take anything personally.
- Personalize the lesson by adding your own touch. Add information that will help stimulate interest in the artwork. Props like books, prints, music, costumes and art media are just a few examples.
- Don't be afraid to tell the kids "I don't know." If you're not sure of a fact, tell them you'll find out and be sure to give them the answer.
- Reinforce the idea that all students can be artists and that all artists are students in a world filled with art!
- Have FUN!

Thank you for your continued support of the
CUSD Art Masterpiece Program!