



PTArt Program Overview

What is PTArt?

Parents enriching the education of their children by bringing art history and hands-on art into the classroom once a month.

Is an art background or teaching experience necessary?

Not at all. Your program coordinators create and deliver the monthly training on each artist, and pre-written art lessons. Age appropriate projects are designed and supplies are provided. All this information is conveyed to parent volunteers at each monthly briefing session, along with teaching tips.

How much time should I expect to spend on this each month?

This varies by individual, but, on average, expect about 2 hours each month. One hour for training and review and one hour for teaching.

What is the in-classroom session like?

The session starts out with the "objectives" for the hour. A five-to-ten minute presentation follows that highlights specific artists or art concepts. Next, you take the students through their project, providing step-by-step instructions. Five to ten minutes before the end of the hour, the children are instructed to clean up and re-group to go over the initial objectives. If the teachers' schedules allow, the classroom sessions may be up to 90 minutes. This will allow additional time for the projects. Please coordinate the time allotment with your teachers.

What additional things can I do to make these sessions memorable for the children?

Anything that reinforces the concepts through other senses helps the children "experience" art. Music is always a good way to stimulate creativity. Let your creativity guide you. Work with teammates to gather ideas. Working together, we can come up with ideas that are fun for both the children and ourselves.

Will I only teach in my child's classroom?

This year our goal is to cover every classroom. By working in Grade Level Teams, we hope we can get all classrooms covered. We may ask volunteers to cover other classrooms. Please help us spread the word that helping with PTArt is a great volunteer opportunity. With enough volunteers, covering another classroom may not be necessary.



What is "Elements of Art"?

We have a portfolio on loan from GRACE art (Greater Reston Arts Center) called "Elements of Art". This portfolio provides an overall view of art components. Subjects covered in the portfolio include definition and uses of COLOR, SHAPE, LINE, TEXTURE, SPACE, LIGHT, and COMPOSITION. Posters in the portfolio can be used in the presentations or just for review by docents. A few samples are provided for explanation of these subjects.

If I have additional questions, where do I go?

Each year we have many program coordinators. Every month a different program coordinator will be the contact person for that month. A Monthly PTArt contact list is attached .