

From The Art Room:

Dear Parents,

In the next few days a permission slip will be coming home to inform you about Artsonia. Artsonia is an online gallery for our students. We have been using it for a number of years and families love it. I have students document their projects before they leave the art room. This documentation allows me to see their progression as an artist and lets your student recall work they did in the past as well. The program also allows you to set up connections with aunts, uncles, grandparents, so that they too can see their work. It sends them a message each time an artwork is uploaded to your child's portfolio. The images are first vetted by me so that you do not get anything that is questionable. The service is free to us and to you. They do make some money if you choose to have your child's image placed on a mug, magnet, or t-shirt. A percentage of the proceeds come back to the CRE Art Department so that I can buy more supplies. There is no need to return the form – just follow the instructions on the form and you will be connected to your child's account. Those of you with K and 1 students, we will be putting things on to the account in the next few weeks so please be patient. Thank you.

The elementary art departments of District 112 use a method called TAB – Teaching for Artistic Behaviors. There are 8 behaviors that artists use in their creative pursuits. These are all skills that are transferable to all areas of study. We encourage creative problem solving, trial and error, and exploration. This is why you will not see projects that are dictated by me. All of the creations are student driven. Please know that these images need to be viewed through a child's aesthetics. Ask your child to explain what it is they have created – the stories are where you will find the gold. This is more about processes than it is about final product. All of this happens with simple materials, much of it recycled. Please visit my school webpage to see how you can help with recycled donations. We use things that are mostly paper based so that they are easily up-scaled into wonderful creations. Thank you for your help and support. The students love coming to class and your support and encouragement makes for a productive class.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeff Lenzmeier

CRE Art Instructor