

# The Creative Pioneer

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*Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School/ News from the K-8 Art Room*

## Back to School!

Welcome back to school! My name is Mrs. Spoltman, and I am the art teacher at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School for the Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This monthly newsletter will explain what is going on in each of the classrooms, what's new in the art world, and much more! As always, if you have any questions you can call me at school (432-4001) or email me at [kspoltman@seascsfw.org](mailto:kspoltman@seascsfw.org). In addition, I will have everything on the school website, on CANVAS and on Remind101! I am looking forward to a great year with lots of exciting projects!

## First Day Business

The first day of every grade level class, the students and I went over my expectations. They brought home a sheet explaining these expectations that was to be signed and returned the next art class. Please look for this paper if you have not seen it yet. I do need it back signed in returned.

I am displaying my classroom rules a little differently. I am using this poster as my rules:



## Visual Arts Standards

There are Indiana Academic Standards for Visual Art education. They have changed this year. If you are interested in learning more about the standards that we follow, you can visit this link <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/standards/2017-visual-arts-final-revision.pdf>. I also follow the diocesan ACE curriculum, which takes these Indiana standards and puts them in a scope and sequence. Because our class times are limited, we do this in a scope in sequence from K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. If you have any questions about these at all, please do not hesitate to ask!

## Website, CANVAS, and Remind101!

All information on assignments and what is happening in the classroom will be posted on the website ([www.seascsfw.org](http://www.seascsfw.org)) for K-8 students under the "Current Family" tab, then click on the "Teacher's Pages" tab, then scroll down to Mrs. Spoltman. I will also have things posted CANVAS for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Finally, I will be using the Remind101 app/texting applications. I will be sending information papers home with each of the students on how to set this up. My codes for this app are @spoltmank, @spoltman1, @spoltman2, @spoltman3, @spoltman4, @spoltman5, @spoltman6, @spoltman7, @spoltman8. For Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, my reminds and communications will be minimal. For 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, all of their assignments will be communicated. If you have any questions about any of these means of communications, please let me know.

## Prayer for Artists

Bless the creators, O God of creation,  
 Who by their gifts make the world  
 A more joyful and beautiful realm.  
 Through their labors  
 They teach us to see more clearly  
 The truth around us.  
 In their inspiration  
 They call forth wonder and awe  
 In our own living.  
 In their hope and vision  
 They remind us  
 That life is holy.  
 Bless all who create in your image,  
 O God of creation.  
 Pour your Spirit upon them  
 That their hearts may sing  
 And their works be fulfilling.  
 Amen.

St. Catherine of Bologna  
 Pray for Us



*"The 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>  
 graders are expected to  
 complete each project and  
 turn it in."*

## Sketchbooks

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade through the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade have Sketchbook Assignments that count towards their grade.**

Most weeks, they will be assigned sketchbook assignments. They will have one full week, sometimes two if we have the following art day off, to complete the assignment. Because 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades have art twice a week, sometimes it is important to the project we are working on that they have it for the next class. These are short assignments that should not consume a large amount of time, however should show that some **time, thought, effort** and **energy** were put into the project. These assignments generally follow the project we are doing in class, however some of them may follow other themes that are grade level appropriate and will get their creative juices flowing. Many of them parallel writing prompts. There are many reasons for this. The first step in good writing is brainstorming. Drawing is an excellent way of brainstorming. This is just another tool we can use at our school to help our students achieve the best. It is very important that students keep up with their work. If work is missing, it is considered a 0, and that is of course failing. We do not want that to happen! I am very open to special circumstances as long as an effort is being made.

## Artsonia is Back!

Your student(s) 2-dimensional artwork will once again be on <http://www.artsonia.com/>. If you already have an account, it has remained the same! If you are new to the school, watch for an email coming very soon!

## Art and Aprons

Art class can be very messy. When we are working with messy materials, we try really hard to keep our new uniforms clean. We do have art aprons that I make available for all students. For the Kindergarten and first graders, I help them put on their aprons. Second through Eighth graders need to put them on themselves before they start working. The paint we use is washable Crayola brand tempera paint for most projects. Some of the 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade projects will be done in acrylic paints this year. We will do our best to contain the mess. **The washing directions on the bottle of tempera paint state:** "For best results on clothing stains (most cotton, polyester, and acrylic fabrics and their blends), rinse the stained area with warm water to remove excess paint, work hand soap directly into any leftover stain and rinse. Then machine wash immediately in hot water. Do not use prewash products as they may set stains. Severe staining may require additional laundering or all-fabric bleach." Although, I have found that the Tide stain stick and the Shout brand stain remover work well in aiding in stain removal. Please note that long sleeves sometimes cause an issue with paint as well. I urge students to remove their sweatshirts, fleeces, and sweaters and roll up their sleeves before they start to work.

## Inside the Kindergarten Classroom

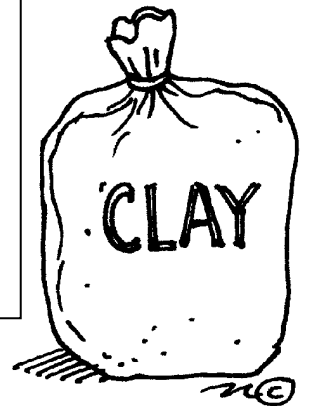
The first day of class, after we talk about the rules and expectations, the Kindergarten will be introduced to their sketchbooks. This is a tool they will use throughout their time at Saint Elizabeth School. They will learn the basics and become familiar with the benefits of using them. These sketchbooks will be kept in class until the end of the year. In this sketchbook we will often do practice drawings for our projects to help improve and hone in on skills. It will also be used as students finish projects.

We will begin with a basic discussion on “seeing art.” Students will create a picture demonstrating what art means to them. Then, during the Month of September we will be focusing on the beginnings of the elements and principles of art. We will be starting with the basics, shapes, lines, color and patterns, with many painting and collaging projects planned.

## Second Grade Fun!

From the start, second graders will be introduced to the fun of clay! We will read *The Pot that Juan Built* which goes through the steps of pottery making. We will then make a pinch pot. The students will define “scraffitto” which is Italian for scratch into clay (an introduction into texture a principle of design). They will also define coils which can be added to their pottery. They will finally define “kiln” and “glaze”.

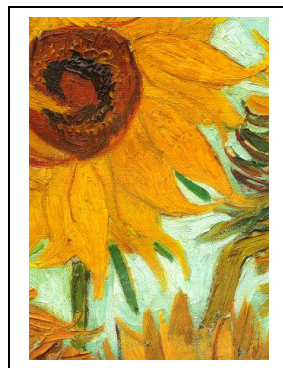
Finally, second graders will be introduced to Eric Carl and his collage technique. We will do an exercise on color mixing which will lead us into creating our own “color swatches.” The color swatches will be used to create cut out pieces which will form our collage of an animal or insect that will be practiced and sketched into our sketchbooks.



## Third Grade Studies Van Gogh

We have started off the year studying Vincent Van Gogh. We have studied his work and style and are mimicking his beautiful sunflower still life. The special touch is in the coloring that we are going to do which depicts his Post-Impressionistic style. We want to see the strokes. This takes lots of time and patience. As a side note, a painting has been recently discovered and identified as a Van Gogh after extensive research. According to the Van Gogh Museum, a discovery of this magnitude has never occurred before. The painting is titled “Sunset at Montmojour” and is believed to have been completed during a period that is considered to be when he painted his best work, roughly two years before he died.

**Please view the article on Sketchbooks**



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Happenings

First Grade will discuss the purpose of their sketchbooks on the first day of class we will personalize our sketchbook.

We will then spend September focusing on Symmetry. We will first work with simple shapes and colors to make an “abstract” symmetrical piece. We will then move on to how the face is symmetrical. We will use basic shapes and symmetry to review from kindergarten portraits and self-portraits.

## Fourth Grade Forum

Fourth Graders will be starting the year with our Henry Rousseau inspired bug-scapes. The students will be introduced to Henry Rousseau and his fantasy jungles. We will discuss how at first, people were confused by Mr. Rousseau and the subjects of his paintings. They were just getting used to the Impressionists and here comes Mr. Rousseau painting monkeys in the middle of a jungle with back scratchers and a pint of milk!

For our project, the students are doing 8 step by step, learn-to-draw bugs. They are then going to create a world in the view of a bug. They will have to think about their foreground, middle ground, and back ground and all the details that will make their work just as interesting!

## Featuring Fifth Grade

Fifth Grade will be starting the school year where they left off in the spring. We will be reviewing the Elements of Art, the building blocks used by artists to create a work of art. These elements are line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space. We will go over these definitions. Then we will create a work that visually represents the definition of each of the elements.

## Sixth Grade Skills

The sixth grade classes will begin the school year by creating Metapec Suns. The art of making clay vessels and figures has played an important part in Mexican life from the earliest of times. It is the most widely practiced art in Mexico. Metapec, in the state of Mexico, has long been famous for its pottery that ranges from functional pieces for domestic use to very ornate “trees of life,” which are fanciful interpretations of the Garden of Eden. The clay suns of Metapec are especially delightful. In many variations, they seem to express kind and life-giving energy. Timoteo Gonzales of Metapec claims to have been the first potter to make the now famous suns. Students will learn the art of slab clay, additive decorations, texture, and glazing all within this project.



## Eighth Grade Masters

In Eighth Grade, we will be starting the school year with exercises and activities based off of Betty Edwards book *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*. We will be doing activities with line, space, shape, and value which will lead into our final drawings. The artist that we will be focusing on is Chuck Close. Close works from a gridded photograph and builds his images by applying one careful stroke after another. He achieved his fame as a photorealist with his massive-scale portraits. Even though he suffered a catastrophic spinal artery collapse in the late 80s that left him severely paralyzed, he continued to paint and produce amazing works of art. In our final drawing, we will use Chuck Close as our Master of Study.



## Seventh Grade Selections

Seventh Grade will start the year with Pop Art and watercolor paint. Pop Art is an art movement from the mid-1950s in Britain and late 1950s in the United States and continued into the 1960s. Artists that flourished in this time period include Red Grooms, Keith Haring, David Hockney, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Wayne Thiebaud, and Andy Warhol. This form of art presented a challenge to what was considered “traditional fine art” by including imagery from popular culture such as advertising, news, and everyday items found in places such as the local grocery store. Students will find an everyday object and make it large. They will start with pencil, trace with black sharpie pen, and then watercolor the piece. We will also review a little color theory so we may mix appropriately.

## Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://seascsfw.org/>

### My link is under Art and Kristin Spoltman

#### Schedule

##### Monday:

6B: 7:50-8:35  
6A: 8:35-9:20  
8A: 11:35-12:20  
8B: 12:20-1:05  
3A: 1:15-2:00  
3B: 2:00-2:45

##### Tuesday:

1A: 8:10-8:55  
1B: 8:55-9:40  
7B: 10:00-10:30  
7A: 10:30-11:00  
2B: 1:00-1:45  
2A: 1:45-2:30

##### Wednesday:

6B: 7:50-8:35  
6A: 8:35-9:20  
8A: 11:35-12:20  
8B: 12:20-1:05  
5B: 1:10-1:55  
5A: 1:55-2:40

##### Thursday:

7B: 9:30-10:15  
7A: 10:15-11:00  
4A: 12:30-1:15  
4B: 1:15-2:00  
HOUSE: 2:05-2:50

##### Friday:

KB: 8:10-8:50  
Mass: 9:00-10:00  
KA: 10:15-10:55  
KC: 12:35-1:20  
5A: 1:25-2:10  
5B: 2:10-2:55

## Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in helping out in the art room, please contact me. There are many ways that you can volunteer. Extra hands are always a great help. Please be sure to have all of your volunteer paperwork completed through the school. There are so many different ways to help out in the classroom!

## Thank You!!

Thank you so much to everyone who has sent in supplies and materials to the art room through the years. Your donations are so important! I greatly appreciate all the donations. If you have connections with an ink jet printer and can help out with a 4<sup>th</sup> grade project this year, please let me know. Also, if you are great at using a sewing machine, please let me know! This will not happen until February, but it's always good to get started early! ☺

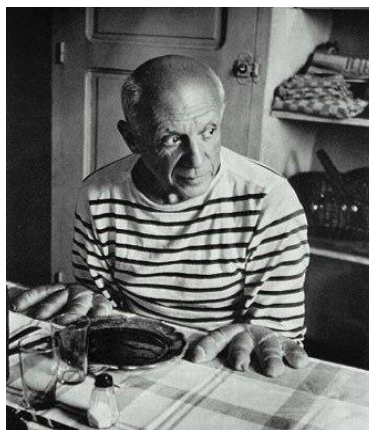
## Scripture of the Week



Again, this year, outside my classroom, you will find a white board. On this white board, I am going to be writing a scripture of the week for the kids. They all will be able to see this not only when they come down to my class, but also when they go to lunch. I am going to try very hard to take most of the weeks scriptures from the weekend mass readings, but sometimes, if there is a scripture that I really think is important for that week or one that I read that has meaning to me and I would like to share, I will post that one. If you ever have a scripture that you would like me to post, please feel free to pass it along at any time!

## Wrap it up.....

All the information about projects and sketchbook assignments will be listed via all the means I mentioned before. Any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My goal is to enrich students with the importance of art in our world and make it fun for them at the same time. I also have expectations and appropriately hold the students accountable for their work. Please also check PowerSchool. Any assignment not turned in is a 0 and we do not want that to happen in art!



"Every child is an artist.  
The problem is how to  
remain an artist  
once we grow up"  
- Pablo Picasso