

Art Discovery Overview & Volunteer Instructions

Art Discovery provides in-class opportunities for students to learn about different artists, art styles and art history. It works in conjunction and support of the art classes run through the school. Art discovery focuses on expanding the view and understanding of art through the ages from cave drawings to current day. We expose students to cultural art from around the world and provide hands on activities to “bring the art alive”. This program relies completely on volunteers from the school families for its success. It is a great way to get involved in your child’s classroom with no art expertise required!

Volunteer timeline:

1. Once you have signed up to volunteer please get in touch with the teacher in the class of your choice. The teacher will inform you if anyone else has also signed up to volunteer for that class and provide you with dates that fit into the class schedule for Art Discovery instruction. At this point you need to coordinate with other class volunteers to decide which dates and artists are covered by which volunteer. You can do the presentations individually or as a team depending on which works best for your volunteers. Inform the teacher of your date of volunteering so he/she can be in contact with you if there is a later scheduling issue. If you find you are unable to teach on the day you had originally chosen, please contact another Art Discovery volunteer to cover for you. Once you have your date(s) confirmed, use the calendar in the copier room at the front of the school to sign out your bin for your scheduled day. This will ensure that your bin will be available to you and not required for two classes at the same time.
2. Now that you know which artist you will be presenting you will need to go through the PowerPoint presentation associated with the artist to familiarize yourself with the topic. You can download the presentation from the APS website or contact the Art Discovery Chair to have it e-mailed to you. If you have any questions about the presentation or if you need clarification on the topic, also feel free to contact the Art Discovery Chair. These presentations are written to the highest level of understanding both in content and vocabulary. For the younger grades you can paraphrase the content of each slide with an emphasis on the key points of the topic.
3. The day before your presentation to the class, please stop by to check the supplies in the bin associated with your artist. The bins are located in the copier room next to the right auditorium entrance at the front of the school. Make sure there are enough supplies for all the students in your class and do any required prep work for the project. If you find that there are any missing supplies, contact the Art Discovery Chair to resupply the bin or for instruction on how to do so yourself. Also on the day before, touch base with the teacher to confirm how much time you have for class instruction the next day.
4. On the day of instruction, arrive at least 10 minutes early in order to pick up your bin and get organized in the classroom. Generally you have from 50-60 minutes for the presentation.
5. Obviously with the younger grades you would be reading the slides aloud to the class but for the other elementary classes I encourage the students to take turns reading the slides aloud. They stay more focused and tend to listen more closely to a peer. Jump in to help with the big words or to emphasize a concept. The PowerPoint presentation takes about half of your allotted time.
6. There is usually a slide with a description of the project at the end of all the presentations. Leave it up on the screen while the students are working. Encourage the students to do the work themselves especially the younger ones. Many ask you to “do it for them”. Just tell them to try their best! It will not get graded and this is how they actually experience the form of art they just learned about.
7. Have Fun! It is truly amazing to see some of the work the kids produce.

Thanks again for volunteering for this worthwhile program!

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