

From the messy desk of Ms. Tess



Greetings wonderful families of Parker Woods Montessori, This year has been off to a great start in the art room, and I am having fun reconnecting with returning friends and getting to know our new students. I am looking forward to an incredible year of artistic exploration and growth, and excited to share a glimpse into the art room.



I am Ms. Tess, your child's art teacher and it is my absolute pleasure to embark on this creative journey with your child, as we delve into the world of art, culture, and self-expression. This is my SIXTH year at PWM instructing our students in the joy of art-making. I am a PWM parent of a fifth grader; my oldest now having moved onto her first year at SCPA in music. I am also a proud CPS graduate: part of the first graduating class of Clark Montessori and a former Sands Montessori kid. I live in Madisonville with my husband, a local musician and music therapist with Melodic Connections, a part of Ken Anderson Alliance.

As we begin this new school year, I wanted to take a moment to share with you my passion and vision for our art program. My aim is to create an inclusive and culturally diverse curriculum that caters to the unique needs and interests of each student in our class. In Montessori education, we believe in nurturing the individuality of each child, and that philosophy extends seamlessly into our art room; where room for self-expression is a key part of all of our projects.

Here's what you can look forward to in our art class:

- **Exploration of Cultural Diversity:** We will celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures from around the world through art. Your child will have the opportunity to learn about different artistic traditions, practices, and techniques, allowing them to gain a broader perspective on the world.
- **Hands-On Learning:** Art is all about getting your hands dirty and letting your creativity flow! Your child will engage in a wide range of hands-on projects and activities that encourage self-expression, problem-solving, and critical thinking. (FYI - I have aprons available and most all supplies used should come out in the wash, but art days may not be the best day to wear favorite or fancy outfits to school.)
- **Individualized Learning:** Montessori principles guide us to meet your child where they are and help them progress at their own pace. In the art class, we tailor our lessons to accommodate the unique interests and abilities of each student. While the class works on projects as a group, each student is graded according to their own ability level, as established and tracked through completed work; and all projects leave room for student's own creative ideas and expression, as well as, additional challenges or accommodations are there to push and/or boost students when they need the support.
- **Inspiration and Growth:** My goal is to inspire your child to grow as an artist and to develop a lifelong appreciation for art. I will encourage them to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from their creative experiences.

- **Family Engagement:** I believe in fostering a strong connection between school and home. Throughout the year, I will keep you informed about our art projects, upcoming events, and ways you can support your child's artistic development. The best way for you to stay connected with your student's art is to use the attached slip to connect with your student's online art portfolio. Most projects from this year will be photographed and catalogued. You can watch the growth of your child year over year. I have been using Artsonia for the last four years, if you haven't yet connected, you might have work of your child's waiting for you to discover! All physical work will be sent home at the end of the school year, but you can see work more timely via Artsonia. Artsonia is also a fundraiser for the art room – order your child's work printed on jewelry, shirts, mugs, luggage tags and more. Makes for awesome gifts and a portion of your purchase amount comes back to the art room to help with the cost of additional supplies! The second ask I have is to connect to the District use of Talking Points. I use talking points as a means of communication with families – it should send messages to you via text – you can save the number and text replies and reach out to me easily this way (make sure your information is correct in powerschool!). Email always works too: warnert@cpsboe.k12.oh.us. I am usually prompt with a response, but if you haven't heard back from me within 48 hrs, please reach out again – as the teacher of 600 students, sometimes communications can get buried. Apologies.

I am genuinely excited about the artistic discoveries and adventures that await us in the coming months. Together, we will create a vibrant and nurturing artistic community where your child can thrive and flourish. Our kindergarten students have started learning about some of the basic building blocks of art: the elements of art, like lines, shapes and colors. All while learning about new art making materials and artists. We love to learn about art through the lens of great picture books and songs. I have projects and practice pieces about color and line that will be uploaded to Artsonia by the end of October.

Our 1st-6th grade students are exploring art with a curriculum special to this year. We are currently wrapping up all of their first project around the concept of "self". Our 1st-3rd grade students are finishing up Silhouette self-portraits, filled with images that express different parts of their identity. Our 4th-6th grade students are doing creatively colored self-portraits inspired by their choice of two artists: Romero Britto and Kristen Woolery. These portraits will all be uploaded soon to Artsonia. From self, we will move outwards. Up next, Family inspired art projects, then school/community art project (keep your eyes peeled for a future family art-making project that will be displayed in the school alongside the work of our students and teachers; celebrating our Montessori triangle and school community), then Cincinnati and Ohio.

Feel free to follow the PWM art room on Instagram @mstessmakesamess if you want to see little pictures of in-progress art room fun. Thank you for entrusting me with your child's artistic education. Let's make this school year a memorable one filled with creativity, inspiration, and endless possibilities!

Warmest regards,
Ms. Tess

thank you
**A few of you have asked, scan here to
find my Art Room amazon wishlist!**



SCAN ME