



WELCOME BACK TO THE ART STUDIOS!

Dear K.T. Murphy Families,

We look forward to a great year in art with all of our students. We want your child's learning experiences in their art classes to inspire an appreciation for art, an understanding of different artistic styles and materials, awareness of cultures and confidence in expressing their ideas, feelings and experiences. With all of us working together these goals will be achieved.

Visual art is a core component of your child's education and growth. Our art program at K.T. Murphy is based on the National Standards for Visual Arts and the Stamford Public Schools Art Curriculum. In addition to teaching students about art, we also make connections to what students are learning in other subject areas. We meet with students in each class in kindergarten through grade five for forty-five minutes a week. Please check your child's schedule to find out what day of the week they have art this year.

In grades K-2 we focus on teaching students a foundation of art processes like drawing, painting, clay sculpture and collage, and to use art vocabulary to describe the steps taken to create artwork in group discussions. Art units include connections to well known works of art, children's literature and students' personal experiences. In grades 3-5 we focus on teaching students to apply art processes to create intended meaning, understand the different effects of art materials, build vocabulary in the visual arts, analyze and interpret well known works of art, evaluate their artwork, and make connections to other subject areas. Artwork will be sent home on occasion while the majority of students' work will remain in school to be reviewed periodically and selected for art displays throughout the school year. Students will take home all their remaining artwork at the end of the school year.

We value the whole process of learning and creating and encourage students to develop their skills in art through each grade level. We honor each child's unique style of learning and creating to ensure an environment in the art studios where students feel confident to take risks while learning to express themselves through visual art. We understand that children learn at different paces and we aim our instruction at various levels appropriate for each child while upholding high standards for all of our students.

We will utilize the school website www.ktmurphy.org to post student artwork, news about the art program and information on upcoming student art shows. Please check in often to see what's new!

Best Wishes For A Great Year,

Catie Ramsey & Mark Martini
Art Teacher Art Teacher