



## FRANK FOWLER DOW SCHOOL NO. 52

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Welcome to the School 52 Art Department, 2015-2016!

Dear Parents & Guardians:

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the new school year. We have begun another exciting and productive year in art class! This letter will tell you a little bit about our Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade visual arts program.

Visual art instruction at School 52 is sequential, developmentally sensitive and thoughtfully aligned with local, state and national standards for the visual arts. This means that our work connects to what students are learning in class in their core areas of social studies, math and science, while emphasizing the elements of artistic design. We will also study art history, from ancient to contemporary periods. We will learn about important artists, as well as the lasting impact that key art movements have had on global culture.

The program will also include aesthetic awareness, problem solving, collaboration, reflection and investigation. Students are encouraged to reach independent solutions to artistic problems, and to share their thoughts and perspectives during group "critiques". These guided discussions help to bolster self-esteem and confidence, promote reflection, and build a close community of artists. Students are encouraged to share the ideas that help them "figure out" what the creative process means to them.

As a way to celebrate these accomplishments, students will have opportunities to see their beautiful work on display. I will post their art throughout the building, as well as at occasional "art openings" in community locations. I will send a note home as these are scheduled.

I am delighted to help your child grow intellectually, socially and creatively. Please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and questions, or to volunteer. I look forward to hearing from you.

Professionally,

Mr. James J. Hines

Visual Arts Teacher

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