

Art Studio Volunteers: Guidelines from Ms. Molly Blauvelt

Thank you for signing up to be an assistant in the Glenwood Art Studio! We will be working together all year, and I would like you to feel both comfortable and useful.

GUIDELINES

- **Arrive 10 minutes prior to class start time.**
- All volunteers are required to sign in at the office; name tags are helpful, thanks!
- Parent volunteers may not bring in younger siblings or pets.
- Cell phone use is not permitted during school hours.
- I will debrief volunteers on the specific project for that day and direct volunteers on how they can assist.
- **Expect to stay 5-10 minutes after class to assist with clean up.** Many classes have “0” minutes in between, so your hands-on help is critical, thank you!

Please remember we are here for *all* students. Sometimes it is hard for young children to “share” their parent in the classroom, so a chat at home before your first visit to class may be helpful. At the beginning of the lesson your child will have the opportunity to introduce you to the class, so we all have a chance to get to know one another.

As I introduce the lesson, please listen along with the class so you are better able to answer their questions as they work.

Sometimes I will have a materials preparation or artwork-mounting project set up for you to work on at the beginning

of a lesson, while I work with the children. Please keep one ear open to the lesson as you fold, cut, glue, etc.

In art there are as many solutions as there are artists creating them! Helping with creative projects is a bit different from helping with reading or math where there is often one correct “answer”. **Keep praise specific and non-judgmental, please.** It is better to say: “Look at that blue color!” or “I like the wavy line on your snail’s shell” than to say “Nice job” or “That’s good!”. Do not do a student’s artwork for her or him unless hands-on help is required or asked for. Sometimes it is tempting to touch the student’s projects, but that tends to reinforce any doubts a child may have.

Here are some helpful hints:

Listen closely to students’ questions. Answer simply. Reassure and remind students of directions. If a student is having trouble getting started, please refer them to me, or you might say: “Remember how Ms. Blauvelt showed us....” “Let’s get some ideas from the (demonstration, board or book)...”

Some helpful phrases:

“I like the way you...” “There are no mistakes in art...”
“Please remember art studio quiet voices”

Philosophy “I believe that every child is already an artist when she/he walks into the Art Studio. I want them to learn to use the materials and art tools safely and with respect, and to use the art studio space and time to stretch their brains and imaginations!”

Ms. Molly Blauvelt

(with thanks to Mrs. Barbara Libby-Steinmann at Bacich School)