

James Diem



Mission Statement:

To develop and cultivate interest in clay as an artistic medium and expose students to the power of collaborative projects.

Grades Served:

K-8

Lives In:

Hood River, OR

Homestay:

Not required

Curriculum Connections

CL CS MA MM
VA

Potter in Residence

The artist works on the wheel with small groups of 4 or 5 students at a time while the remaining class is occupied with other class work. The students will experience what it feels like to throw a bowl. Depending on the size of the classroom this portion of the project can be last one to two days per class. The bowls are then trimmed and bisque fired. After the bowls are dried and bisque fired, usually a week to two weeks later, students will glaze the pots. Discussion about the history of ceramics, firing and glazing can be integrated into the residency per teachers' request.

Soft Slab Textured Flower Pots

In this project students create soft slab flower pots. Students are shown how to roll out a slab and then have a variety of materials to create texture on their slabs. Students are guided on how to cut out a shape that will "fold" into a vessel form. This process takes two consecutive days. After the vessels are dried and bisque fired a week to two weeks later, the students glaze the pots. Demonstration and glazing take two consecutive days after which the vessels are glaze fired. The fifth day would take place the following week and would involve unloading the finished product, critique, and/or review.

Facilities & Supplies:

Classroom with sinks preferably, 50 lbs of clay per class of 30 students, Potters wheel (can bring one if necessary), Low fire clay and glaze, Electric Kiln (can fire at my studio if necessary), Drying Racks, Paint Brushes and Plastic Jello cups for glaze. Supply Cost – approx \$1.50 per student.

About the Artist...

James Diem holds a BA in Art & Design and K-12 art teaching certification from GrandValley State University in Allendale Michigan and also holds an Oregon teaching license. James and his wife Anna, a speech therapist, moved to the Gorge two years ago. Prior to the move, James worked as the exhibits manager for a children's museum and was active in the art community completing various art residencies in scholastic and community venues. James is currently a full time ceramicist and metalsmith in the Gorge. His work can be viewed at the Columbia Art Gallery in Hood River and Redfish gallery in Bingen, Washington.

