

Janet Essley



Mission Statement:

Everyone has artistic ability. It is part of being human. My goal is to help students and teachers find the pathways to utilize this skill. Human experience- in math, science, social studies, language arts -is the subject of art. Art making is a door to learning for any school curricula.

Grades Served:

K-12, Adult

Lives In:

White Salmon, WA

Homestay:

Not required

Curriculum Connections

CL CS CT GH
LA MC MM SC
VA

Murals, Masks, and More

Each residency is an individually designed project using visual arts to explore subject matter and allow students to show what they have learned. Bugs can be combined with pastels for a visual festival that reinforces science outcomes. A painted, stenciled, or collaged mural can become a visual aide for exploring health. Mask making can teach about geography, culture, or poetry. Imaginary creatures made of folded and cut paper require use of math skills to create underlying structure. For both collaborative and individual projects, students are guided through appropriate drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, or construction basics. With these skills, students have the tools for showing their own ideas, responses and embellishments to classroom learning. Mural projects are collaborative efforts which students brainstorm and design and paint in small groups, with each students adding a unique contribution.

Staff & Community Offerings

Murals include written teacher hand-outs for guiding students through analysis and evaluation of the mural and any applicable art historical/cultural information. Teacher workshops present ways to use the mural as visual aide for curriculum introduction/reinforcement. Individual projects, such as masks, include relevant cultural information, exhibition concepts for teachers, and guidelines for teachers to assist students in analysis and evaluation.

Facilities & Supplies

Vary according to project and desired outcomes. Permanent wall murals require acrylic paint. Other residencies attempt to use materials generally available at the school (so lessons can be duplicated or adapted by teachers for future use). Access to the library and a copy machine, for visual aids are often necessary. For murals, large hallway or multipurpose room may be useful. Other projects are done in classroom and may require in process storage space for drying.

Materials costs vary depending on scope of project. For permanent murals \$200 may be necessary for paint and brushes, depending on size of mural. Other than paint (or ink, pastel, glue etc) and brushes, many materials are recycled.

About the Artist...

Janet Essley uses the mural format to transform ordinary spaces into works of art through community collaboration. She has worked with diverse groups of all ages to create murals throughout the Northwest, in California, New York, and Mexico. She holds a BFA from the University of Oregon and an MA from California State University Chico and has taught art in Cambodia Refugee Camps and at the Honolulu Academy of Art. She is an award winning painter and muralist and regularly exhibits her paintings and installations in alternative community settings.