Residencies Offered:
CURRICULUM BASED SCULPTURE AND POTTERY: I enjoy working with teachers to create projects related to topics of classroom study. Students of all ages can bring newly discovered knowledge, ideas, and information to their work in clay.

NATURE/ANIMALS: Making an animal or habitat out of clay develops a personal connection and sense of stewardship towards life on this earth. How about sea stars on a rock? Ducks, fish, tide pools, crabs, monkey faces, penguins, icebergs, polar bears, owls or owl face cups, song birds, flowers, butterflies – many possibilities...

FIGURE SCULPTURES OR HEADS: This can be a natural extension of student writing, reading, or the study of history. Sculptures can be inspired by favorite characters, authors, historical figures, artists, musicians, etc. This kind of project is great in conjunction with biography. Self-portraits are also fun, and can go hand in hand with more personal and interpersonal explorations.

POTTERY FROM HISTORY: Students learn pottery-making techniques from a particular culture and see how art and craft grows out of the needs and interests of different peoples. Japan has a rich ceramic tradition. We could make pagodas, rope incised coil pots (Jomon), or narrative Oribe slab pots. Pueblo Indian culture is great to look at for coil pottery and decoration. Ancient Greek canopic jars are challenging but fun!

GOOD OLD-FASHIONED POTTERY TECHNIQUES: Kids love to make functional forms using classic processes like coiling, pinching, slab; and surface decoration techniques such as texturing, sgrafitto and stenciling. A project like this is totally appropriate to expand art curriculum. Hand building projects for junior high and high school clay students include the use of forms, darting, simple and complex forms (lidded and pouring vessels, larger pieces...), design work (symmetry, contrast, abstraction, patterns of growth, variations, etc), and continuing surface treatment at different temperatures. For middle and high school, wheel throwing lessons help students take their skills to the next level. Raku firing is also possible!

Supplies, Equipment, Space and Time Considerations:
We will need the use of the art departments’ electric kilns, ample work space and space for storage of works in progress. Much is possible right in the regular classroom, some projects may be better taking place in the art room.

Teaching Experience:
Over twenty consistent years of teaching on Vashon--all ages!

Artist Statement:
I have been a production potter for 40 years and a dedicated clay teacher for 20 years, blending the two into a busy career. I am currently focusing on hand building with slabs to create unique functional and decorative pottery and animal sculptures. I have learned what I know about clay either from working potters, or from figuring it out. I got my start at Oberlin College firing a funky wood fired kiln and learning from community potters. I like sharing my excitement with others and I especially like developing projects to spark kids’ creativity. With clay it doesn’t take much to get things going!