

Geri Siebert

206-567-5580

vashonites@centurytel.net

Ceramics

Residencies Offered:

I truly appreciate having the opportunity to enrich student learning by bringing clay into the classroom! Clay projects can be incorporated into many areas of curriculum: science, social studies, mathematics, language arts, music and visual arts. Examples of past projects include the following: crafting miniature Terra Cotta Warriors; making Egyptian canopic jars; reproducing traditional Middle Eastern and Mexican Talavera designs on tile; making and decorating coil pots using traditional Native American techniques; creating African spirit masks; recreating art work to make a table top mural using math concepts to determine proportions; making rattles, bells and whistles; and forming countless sculptures related to animal or human studies.

Once a curriculum-based project is determined, I will collaborate with teachers and work with students to create clay projects using hand building, sculpture and/or wheel throwing techniques. Students may learn a number of hand building methods such as pinching, coiling, press molding and slab construction. Decorating techniques including sgraffito, slip trailing, stamping and painting or pouring glazes may be used to finish work.

Preferred Age/Grade Levels: pre-school through grade 12

Supplies, Time and Space Considerations:

Clay, glazes, stains, clay tools, large tabletop work areas, and use of school kilns

Teaching Experience:

For nearly 20 years, I have taught clay classes periodically to groups of children, first through the summer program at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina and more recently through the Blue Heron Art Center on Vashon Island. I have also worked with students of all ages in their classroom settings, as part of their school art classes, and through community organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. As a pediatric occupational therapist, I have worked in schools with students who have various sensory and motor deficits and have at times used clay to help these children reach therapeutic goals during individual treatment sessions.

Artist Statement:

In my work as a therapist, I have developed a deep appreciation for learning experiences that tap into as many sensory modalities as possible. As a potter I see that clay can provide the ultimate hands-on, sensory-motor learning experience. Wet clay is one of the most tactually inviting and forgiving of art mediums, its malleable nature allowing for endless creative expression or changes in design; perfect for the rich imaginations of children! It is always a delight to see what learning takes place when a child is given a lump of clay, some guidance and permission to follow their creative instincts!