

Barbara D. Gustafson

Weaving

206-463-1638

[rggbdg@yahoo.com](mailto:rggbdg@yahoo.com)

Residencies Offered:

**BASKET WEAVING:** Students may weave several different styles of baskets using commercial or gathered materials. "Woven" into each basket will be information about that basket's historical form and function, as well as the natural materials traditionally used in its construction.

**TRADITIONAL "SALLY" BAGS:** Using a variety of fibers including yarns, jute, raffia, cattails, corn husks, iris or lily leaves, students will use a weaving technique called twining to make a small, soft-sided cylindrical bag. This traditional bag, commonly found along the Columbia River, was used to hold roots dug for food or for medicinal purposes.

**TEXTILE MATHEMATICS:** Weaving and math go hand-in-hand during the creation of textiles. The concepts of linear measurements, geometric shapes and area, slope, symmetry, patterns, balance, and more can be applied throughout the process of designing an image, graphing a "cartoon" of that image which will guide the weaver, as well as, warping the loom, and using diverse weaves to create small tapestries or pouches.

Preferred Age/Grade Levels: 2-12

**Supplies, Equipment, Space and Time Considerations:** Weaving supplies may include commercial or gathered reed, plant fibers, yarns, cordage, beads, clothespins, measuring tapes, scissors or clippers, and plastic dish tubs. Large tables to work on are helpful. Most projects require two to five hours.

**Teaching Experience:** I have been teaching people of all ages to weave for over 30 years. For the past 10 years, I have taught the 2nd graders at CES to weave as part of their Native American/Native Plant studies unit. For this residency, I embrace the persona of an elder weaver who teaches by the "watch and copy" method used by native weavers. I love introducing the ancient art of weaving to these impressionable children. Additionally, I have had five VAIS residencies with 5<sup>th</sup> graders weaving wicker baskets; ten residencies with the 7th grade math students in a project called "Math in a Basket", where we incorporate the Fibonacci sequence and Golden Mean into 2D and 3D weavings; and 2 residencies with the VHS Horticulture class using gathered natural materials for woven vessels. For 3 years I have woven with students during the annual Be Curious and Art Blitz events. Finally, I have worked directly with VISD teachers in a series of basket weaving workshops.

**Artist's Statement:** Through the millennia people have woven functional, spiritual and fanciful vessels and textiles. The care and ingenuity with which the materials have been harvested, prepared and woven have endowed these creations with an intrinsic beauty and value. Traditional weavers live and work closely with nature; they nurture and respect it. By giving young people the opportunity to learn the art of weaving, we help them to possess a connection with our ancestors, to value the process of creating something of meaning and beauty, and to express themselves.