



Dear Osseo Junior High Student(s) and Parent/Guardian(s),

I am Mr. Jeff Nelson and I teach grades 7-9 Visual Arts. This will be my first year teaching in the Osseo School District after completing a Master's degree from the University of Minnesota within the field of visual arts education. I am very excited to be a part of the Arts program at Osseo Junior High and look forward in sharing your student's creativity & imagination during the trimester. I have a strong background in graphic design, ceramics, printmaking and electronic media. In an effort to keep you informed on what we will be doing in my class, I have outlined additional information. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to assist in the art room, please contact me by phone at 763.391.8800, or e-mail at: nelsonjeff@district279.org. I will also be updating a class website at least once a week with in handouts, in progress photos, PowerPoint presentations from class and a variety of other things. <http://artwithnelson.weebly.com/>

Class Content:

The art curriculum is designed to give students an experience that is challenging, culturally relevant, and FUN! We will explore art in its many dimensions through studio projects, historical inquiry, art criticism, and aesthetics. During the course students will work on skills such as creative problem solving and self-evaluation, while building a deeper understanding of art making techniques, visual culture, and The Elements of Art & The Principles of Design.

Make-up Work:

Students need to contact me to arrange make up time and or project adjustments when needed, upon their return from absence/lost time. Afterschool sessions are announced and posted in the art room. **All projects are due at the end of each unit as posted.** No penalty or deductions will be given to work submitted after the conclusion of each unit. . Corresponding work must be turned in *prior* to course midterm and the end of the trimester for a final grade. Assignments and projects not completed in class within the allotted time may require additional out of class time/homework.

Class Expectations:

I expect all students to experience success in my classroom and enjoy a classroom environment that is, challenging, thought –provoking, and both physically and emotionally safe. In order for students to be successful the expectations have been outlined on the front page. School and District policies are enforced and expected to be followed to ensure a positive learning experiencing for all students in the art room.

Discipline:

One of my goals as a teacher is to assist students with understanding their individual responsibility while participating in a social environment. There are District & building policies that apply in the art room. These include respect for persons and property, punctuality, and prohibition of items that are a distraction to the class room learning environment such as candy/gum, food, pop, backpacks, hats/hoods, headphones, cell phones, tablets, etc.

All Art supplies are provided. Any discarded items from home that you would like to donate for your student's use such as: picture magazines, small containers with lids, plastic bags for clay storage, and old shirts for paint & clay are gladly accepted. Thank you in advance for your contributions & generosity.

Please sign the bottom portion of this letter after you and your student have read the information together. Your student receives a ✓ in the grade book as *miscellaneous/communication* (no points or grade) when I have received and signed the letter. It will then be returned to you upon request (*please check your preference * below*). Thank you for your time and have a fabulous 2013-2014 year!

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ (please print) Hour \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Would You like this art letter to be returned to you?:** \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ not necessary

Teacher verification \_\_\_\_\_