

Newton Bateman Elementary School 4220 N. Richmond, Chicago, IL 60618 Phone: (773) 534-5055

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Dear Parents and Students,

 Welcome to the Art Program at Bateman Elementary School! It is a pleasure to send this letter home to you because I am very much looking forward to beginning this new school year. I am so excited to meet your children, as well as all of you! I would like to give you some information regarding my background as an art teacher, in addition to familiarizing you with some of the expectations and activities that I have planned for the 5th- 8th grade art classes this year.

 I am a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago's Master of Art Education program and have a Bachelor's of Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. I spent three years in South Korea teaching ESL and Fine Arts before moving to Chicago to become an art educator. I am knowledgeable in many areas of art, including graphic design and printmaking.

 I am looking forward to a productive and exciting school year. I would like to give you an idea of the topics we will be covering this year in the art class. The middle school program will focus on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design and how these apply to all aspects of art production. Students will be exposed to different art techniques, media, methods and tools that will allow them to create a multitude of work that expresses their thoughts, ideas and feelings more abstractly. Interdisciplinary connections, aesthetic, cultural and historical aspects of visual art will also be explored in all of our activities.

I have included some very valuable information in this packet. Here you will find a learning contract that must be signed by you and your child, “Art Tips”, and some information about our website. Please, keep this packet to refer to if you have any questions about any of these policies and procedures.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help out, you can contact me at amtambone@cps.edu

Thank you all for your support. I appreciate each and every one of you and I look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Tambone

* **OUR WEBSITE AND ARTSONIA**
* Please visit our class website for more information about Bateman’s Art Program. Our website provides you access to resources, a calendar of events and project due dates. The monthly newsletter will also be available on the website.
* Website access:
* batemanart.weebly.com
* In addition, our school will be apart of the Artsonia program that is an online art museum. I will be photographing student work and parents, guardians, family and friends can see your student’s work.

» Artsonia.com is the world’s largest kids art museum online. It’s the newest way to celebrate creativity in the classroom and get families involved in art education!

* »  Kids develop a new sense of pride and feel like famous artists published in a museum!
* »  Family and friends view the artwork, join fan clubs and leave personal comments for the artists.
* »  Schools earn 20% when parents purchase custom keepsakes with their child’s artwork.

**ART TIPS**

Rather than simply praising your child’s artwork...Start a conversation about it! As one of these great questions:

 » Why did you make it?

 » How did you make it?

 » What made you think to try this?

 » Where did you get the idea?

 » Did you discover anything new while you were making this?

 » What kind of materials are these?

 » Which part are you the proudest of?

**STUDENT LEARNING CONTRACT – VISUAL ARTS 2014-2015**

On the first day, as a class, the students compiled a list of classroom rules they feel are appropriate to implement in the art classroom. Please read through the rules with your child and return the signed contract to me.

1. **Be Respectful** – Be respectful of yourself, your environment, your fellow classmates, and your teacher. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Avoid disruptive behavior: talking out of turn, tapping on the desk, throwing materials or any other behavior that distracts from classroom activities. Raise a hand to speak. Do not shout out answers unless the teacher asks you to do so.

2. **Be Responsible** – Be morally accountable for one’s own actions. Be on task, follow directions, clean –up the first time asked and recognize your own role in building a fun and productive community of learners.

3. **Be Safe** – There are many dangerous materials and tools that are used within the art classroom. The students must follow all safety procedures and instructions to ensure the safety of everyone.

4. Students will be encouraged to express their ideas, personal feelings, creativity, imagination and opinions about art both visually and verbally.

6. Students will be expected to be on time and ready to work upon arrival in the classroom. Each student will be responsible for cleanup of his or her work area and for storing their work in their personal portfolios.

7. Materials and supplies are not to be removed from the art classroom. A one-subject spiral notebook and pen/ pencil is required for every class.

6. There will be periodic written assignments, assessments and quizzes throughout the school year.

7. Cell phones and electronic equipment of any kind are not permitted in the art classroom and WILL BE CONFISCATED. Gum, candy, food or beverages are not to be brought into the classroom.

**I have read and understood this document.**

Student’s Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom # \_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell me something special about your child that you would like me to know. Please write it below.**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Student’s special interest or skill:

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What is the best way to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_