



Dear Parents & Students,

"I dream my painting, and then I paint my dream." Vincent Van Gogh

It is so wonderful to be back among so many wonderful students and their families here at DMCS. As I begin my third year teaching art here, I am able to see so many young artist grow. Thank you parents for doing such an outstanding job with your children. What they learn at home shows here in the classroom.

During our first three weeks of classes we have revisited some familiar concepts in art dealing with line, shape and form resulting in a wide range of wonderful new images created by all of our students. Following last year's class schedules, I will once again be meeting with each class for one hour per week (grades 1-6) and 45 minutes with each Kindergarten class (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday). It is quite remarkable how much we are able to cover during this time spent together in art class. It is important that we understand that art is a "process" and not a finished product. Of course, we will be completing many wonderful pieces, but I believe it is vital that each child is comfortable with their talents and has fun making art.

During the course of the school year we will explore a number of different techniques and mediums used in creating art. From pencil studies to sculptures and print making we will experience and learn how our images can make a difference by communicating ideas to one another. In each area the students will be encouraged to do their best and not be afraid to create a "masterpiece". A simple line may just be a "simple line" to some, but to others it may be the beginning to a work of art that reaches the masses and shares a message that can be "read" by all.

Things to Look For....

Continuing for the second year in a row now, I will place a large colorful barrel in the front entrance of the South Campus School. This is our "DMCS Art Barrel". Its purpose is to serve as a donation drop off point. Please feel free to donate all items such as: buttons, tape, 35mm plastic film canisters, wire coat hangers, old nylon stockings (washed please), and any other items that may be useful to young artist. These "found" objects are the base materials for endless masterpieces, and teaches our students that creating art can also be a form of reusing and recycling materials that might just get tossed in the trash.

Picturing America – DMCS received a grant this year from the NEH (*National Endowment for the Humanities*) which was applied for back in February, 2008. What the grant includes is a teacher's resource book along with forty pieces of art created by American artist throughout our history. These are very nice, high quality laminated reproductions (24x36 inches each), which we are already using in the art room.

Art Adventure – This program is put on by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and funded by our DMCS Home and School and Parker Kohl Funeral Home. In order to make this experience possible for the children we also rely on a wonderful group of parent volunteers. This year’s Institute trained Art Adventure group of “picture people” are: Michelle Jasinski, Mary Lipinski, Susan Schneider, Katie Healy, Mary Marquard, Mary Ellen Bondhus, Dave Campbell, Annette Hickey, Sara Caron, Celeste Seidel, Kris Kohl, and Jason Hillesheim. Thanks to you all!

Vatican Splendors – On October 28th, 5th & 6th graders will be traveling to the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul to view selected works of art on display from the Vatican Collection, Rome. This is an amazing opportunity for the children to see many beautiful masterpieces. Thank you Mrs. Thomas (6T), for making arrangements for this fieldtrip.

In closing, I would like to view this as the beginning to another wonderful year full of God’s grace. I wish to thank you all for your dedication to Catholic Education and Divine Mercy Catholic School. I feel truly blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful families and such dedicated staff that it makes my vocation as a teacher all the more rewarding.

Peace, _____
Jason C. Hillesheim / art specialist