



Art Purpose Statement Bibiana Powell, Art Teacher

The media used in the SJCS art program are based on the National Arts Standards, and include: Drawing, Painting, Collage, Printmaking, Ceramics, and Sculpture. Each grade works on projects designed to build skills, but mostly to provide experiences that create an understanding of process. The creation of art comes from individuals in cultural settings, such as Romare Beardon's collages he created in New York City in the Harlem Jazz scene. It comes from needing to solve "problems," such as how to create a coil bowl from clay. It requires planning, work and completion, in limited time. Each year we discuss the Elements of Art, on levels appropriate to age. Drawing, for example, in first-grade we discuss pattern, in second-grade line quality, in third-grade space, in fourth-grade facial proportions, and in fifth-grade we do an introduction to Figure Drawing. We move from drawing what we know to learning to draw through observation.

Painting focuses on study of colors, use of paints and brushes, and composition. Every child every year begins with finger paints, and each year offers new challenges in their use. First-graders mix primary colors into secondary colors, and begin to understand the difference between abstract and representational images. Second-graders make color wheels before painting, with primary and secondary colors. Third-graders add tertiary colors to their color wheels. Fourth-graders are only given secondary colors to paint with, and required to create representational images. Fifth-graders are required to create landscapes using only secondary colors. This is one example of progression of skills.

Ceramics is another. First-graders start with basic pinch-pots. Second-graders create "plates of food," using hand-building and molding techniques. Third-graders learn coil-building technique and create animals and/or bowls. Fourth-graders create masks as an extension of the NW Coast Artwork studied in painting and drawing from earlier in the year. Fifth-graders do slab-construction, with the ability to use other techniques as well.

Sculpture for each grade is based on development of planning and coordination skills. All require balance and craftsmanship. First and second-graders create wooden sculptures by gluing materials together. Third-graders create Greek vases to tie in with Morah Paulette's unit on Greek mythology. Fourth and fifth-graders construct animals from recycled materials in the Mexican tradition of "Animalitos." Fourth-graders Paper Mache with finishing paper, and fifth-graders Paper Mache with newsprint and then paint.