

# Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

**CLASS TITLE:** Intermediate/Advanced Ceramics

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS:** Ages 10 and older. Artists must have had previous ceramics/pottery experience, and have the ability to work on their own. (5th-12th grade)

**START DATE:** September 12 /January 30 **END DATE:** January 16/June 5th

**# WEEKS TOTAL:** 10 weeks                   **WEEKS OFF:** none

**DAY/TIME REQUIRED:** Saturday 10 am-12pm

**ADD'L DAYS/WK AVAILABLE:**

**# HOURS (REQUIRED):** 16 hours/sem **# HOURS (POSSIBLE):** 20 hours/sem

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE:** 20

**LOCATION/ADDRESS:** 2601 N. 5th Street, Niles, MI 49120

**DIRECTIONS TO LOCATION (if needed):**

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR:** Elisha Bliss

**ADDITIONAL PRIMARY INSTRUCTORS (background checked):**

None

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** phone: 574-340-1335 email:  
ebliss95@gmail.com website: <https://www.nilessteamroom.com/>

**ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED? NO**

**IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:**

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:**

I am a former homeschooler who used a Michigan partnership to help me develop my artistic talents. My artistic path led to a degree in Graphic Design from Southwestern Michigan College. I am currently employed, full-time, as a graphic designer with the Herald-Palladium. I am also the Art Director of the Niles S.T.E.A.M. Room. I am excited about using my four years of advanced ceramics/pottery education to help found the Niles S.T.E.A.M Room maker space and mentor others on their journey in art. I look forward to the small part I will play on your journey into the arts.

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION (complete overview shown on website):**

This course is, in part, a self-directed advanced studio course. It is designed to support artists in their continued study of ceramics and pottery. This course is intended for artists, with experience, who are looking for improvement and continued education in ceramics/pottery. The artists will work alongside the instructor, as well as on their own to develop skills and techniques in the ceramic arts. Whether hand building or wheel throwing, the artist will be given assistance and assignments based on their personally developed study of ceramics. Each artist will be given their own box of clay to use in the course. If artists would like to come into the STEAM Room, on their own, on other Saturdays or open time, they are welcome.

#### **SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: weekly breakdown of Project-Based Learning activities**

Describe activities that will reinforce the lesson. Include any work and time to be required outside of class. List here or (circle) SEE ATTACHMENT.

As artists identify their learning goals, weekly accountability will take place. The instructor will provide helpful feedback to lead to a positive outcome. Each student will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning by completing at least 2 pieces which they can present for examination and grading for each of the pinch pot/coiling and draping techniques. For the sculpturing category you will be given the opportunity to present one sample for examination.

After the 10 weeks are over, students will have the opportunity to showcase their choice projects in a public art show at the Niles STEAM Room.

- Weeks 1-2 - Pinch Pot and Coiling Technique
- Weeks 3-5 - Draping Technique
- Weeks 6-8 - Sculpturing
- Weeks 9-10 - Independent Choice
- Art Show

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Steps to check for student understanding, along with dates or # of weeks into class:

As artists focused goals are laid out, artists will demonstrate their understanding by producing a project generated from those self-directed goals.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT** - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status? All classes abide by the following:

- 1) Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
- 2) The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

**Class-specific assessment:** discuss and include the form or a link to the form that you

use.

Finalized projects will be assessed on how much the artist has advanced in their techniques.

#### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):

#### CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

**Attendance:** It is expected that an artist attends all sessions for the best outcome and learning experience.

**Behavior:** Responsible behavior is expected. Adherence to safety and procedural policies will be expected at all times. Honoring fellow artists will be expected by encouraging one another on their work.

**Weather:** If the Niles School District is closed due to weather, this course will also be closed.

**Other:** If an event like COVID 19 were to happen again, each artist may take their box of clay home. If needed, the artist may borrow a set of tools from the STEAM Room. Virtual instruction will continue through Zoom or equivalent, each week. Artists participating in the virtual lessons will be the same artists participating in the class before the virtual lessons were made necessary. Items that need to be fired may be dropped at an agreed upon time.