

# Berrien Springs Partnership Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

**CLASS TITLE:** Mixed Media Art

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS:** Ages 10 & up

**START DATE:** September 7th      **END DATE:** January 18th

**# WEEKS TOTAL:** 17 Per Semester      **WEEKS OFF:** 3

**DAY/TIME REQUIRED:** Tuesdays 2-4pm      **ADD'L DAYS/WK AVAILABLE:**

**# HOURS (REQUIRED):** 34      **# HOURS (OPTIONAL):** 34 (approx.)

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE:** 68

**SECOND SEMESTER COURSE?:** Yes, different content but students can register for one or both semesters

**LOCATION/ADDRESS:** S.T.E.A.M. Room MakerSpace 2601 N. 5th st. Niles

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR:** Dawn Frasier

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

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** **phone:** (269) 262-0697      **email:**  
dawnandmike007@yahoo.com      **website:** FunLearningCompany.com

**ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED?** NO

**MAIN INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS:** I was a homeschool mom – mine are all grown-ups now. I have a number of “Maker” interests of my own and have, through the years, passed many on to my children – working on ways to make things like quilting and crochet “kid-friendly.” In a number of contexts, I passed on these maker interests to other children – in homeschool settings, Scouts and church. Like many Makers, I am mostly self-taught and have also “educated myself” – whether through quilting workshops, paper-crafting conventions (several of those), a watercolor painting course, a ceramic tile-making class – and LOTS of You Tube videos. (Not to mention learning many sewing and needle arts strategies from Mom and Grandma.) I love passing these interests on to the younger generation.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION (complete overview shown on website):** In this class, Variety’s the name of the game, though that doesn’t mean jumping from one activity to another each week. Some projects may take several weeks; other times, we’ll just be “playing around” with possibilities. As a teacher, I always like to put things in context: in an art class that means a bit of history here, geography there. We’ll look at the work of other artists - Native American basket and jewelry makers, for example – in print and online. I

hope this class helps students appreciate the talents of other artists and makers and inspires their confidence, so if, in the future, their imagination is piqued by some new creative form, they won't be afraid to try it out. We'll try to make connections: "How does it make sense that decoupage became so popular in Victoria's England? How did new inventions – like the sewing machine – and the industrial revolution change the traditional "home arts" in 19<sup>th</sup> century America? We'll work on different skills: from using a sewing pattern to embroidery and wool applique, napkin decoupage to simple jewelry making.

We'll also just have some fun experimenting: dyeing different materials with natural items and commercial dyes; checking out how watercolor pencils compare to watercolor paints; the use of chalks and inks in paper crafting. Niles and Berrien Springs students will also get the chance to design and make a simple project using the Glo-Forge machine. The students will also keep a binder to creatively journal all their experiments.

Note: Exact topics/depth covered will adapt to the interests and skills of the students who sign up.

**SYLLABUS/OUTLINE:** weekly breakdown of Project-Based Learning activities (four 4-week units + 1 wrap-up week)

**Unit 1:**

Dabbling in the Arts - Quickie intro's to a variety of art forms, from dyeing fabrics and threads to paper collage, simple weaving and beadwork to designing wood projects for laser cutting.

**Unit 2:**

We'll continue with ongoing projects and look at new forms: watercolors and distress inks, decoupage, using a sewing pattern, archival scrapbooking, basket work., working with clay. We'll try some fall projects, as well (gourd painting, for example). Some projects will take several weeks to complete and will spill over into Unit#3.

**Unit 3:**

We'll build this month on student interest - and pursue forms and objects reflecting the composition of the class. We'll be preparing, specifically, for holiday gifting. We'll also add wool applique to the skills list, along with advanced paper-crafting techniques applied to card-making and a bit of Victorian crazy quilting.

**Unit 4:**

Advanced projects in the areas we've been exploring, projects that take a bit more pre-design and planning, whether working with paper, fabric or other media.

### 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:

Our instructor will evaluate each student using Berrien's evaluation form and passing criteria will be based solely on students attending and actively participating in the class sessions.

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

Students may be assigned homework and/or supplemental material to read, watch, or work on by our instructor (students specifically interested in additional info on a particular topic can feel free to request this from our instructor as well).

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

**Attendance:** attendance is required and students should notify the instructor in advance of any absence.

**Behavior:** any behavior issues will first be privately brought to the attention of the parent and, should the behavior persist, to the partnership staff.

**Weather:** the classes will be cancelled on any days when Berrien Springs Public Schools are closed. We will also contact families to remind them of this in the event of a weather-related cancellation. We will make up any canceled class meetings at a later date.