

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

LABS (CLASSES) ARE PROVIDED AS AN EDUCATIONAL SOURCE FOR PBL (PROJECT BASED LEARNING)

COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Nature Journaling

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: Grades 2-8

FORMAT: IN-PERSON ONLINE FLEXIBLE

DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK: Eight Thursdays, 1-3pm, Every other week

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16

ADD'L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME): 0

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16

LOCATION: Andrews University Campus, Berrien Springs

INSTRUCTOR: Diane Helbley

CONTACT INFORMATION: phone: 269-240-3959 email: diane.helbley@gmail.com

website:

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED? YES NO

IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS (may attach a separate page if necessary): Diane Helbley has always had a love of art, but not a love of nature! That came after she met her husband and best friend, who have passed on their wealth of knowledge and demonstrated just how cool nature is. Now she loves spending time in nature and especially loves taking macro photos of the flora to see how beautiful and interesting things are up close. She has put what she has learned from John Muir Laws' nature journaling methods into use this past year. She also has been an instructor for Young Rembrandts drawing classes, has taken college-level drawing classes, and still loves to draw.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW): Have you ever looked really closely at an individual snowflake? Have you ever noticed what flowers and plants pop up first when winter starts transitioning to spring? Have you ever noticed all the different colors of pollen?

In this class, we will stop and not only smell the roses, but look closely at whatever we can find and then journal about them. We will sketch what we observe, make notes, and ask questions. Nature journaling helps us to focus our attention and remember what we have seen and what we thought when we saw it. The class touches on art, botany, ornithology, entomology, ecology, measurement, and comparison/contrast.

As John Muir Laws states: "Nature Journaling will enrich your experiences and develop observation, curiosity, gratitude, reverence, memory, and the skills of a naturalist. It helps you discover, think, remember, and integrate new information with your existing knowledge. Train your mind, and the world will offer you its secrets of wonder and beauty."

Each student will need:

- A sketchbook/journal in which to journal their finds. They should choose one that is at least 4"x6" and no larger than 8 ½ "x11". It should be blank and able to open flat. A hard cover is helpful when drawing out in nature, but not required.
- A pencil and eraser.
- Colored pencils.
- A bag or backpack to hold supplies.

Optional supplies:

- Ruler
- Binoculars
- Magnifying glass
- Plant and/or bird identification books.

Parents/guardians are required to stay nearby in case a child needs to use the restroom. Dress for the weather. We'll be sitting on the ground, so dress accordingly.

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

Describe activities that will reinforce the lesson. Include any work and time to be required outside of class:

Classes:

1. **1/20:** Intro, Pre-Class Quiz, Preliminary Journal Entry, How To, Project Ideas
2. **2/3:** Journaling
3. **2/17:** Journaling
4. **3/3:** Journaling
5. **3/17:** Journaling
6. **3/31:** Journaling
7. **4/14:** Journaling
8. **4/28:** Journaling
9. **5/12:** Post-Class Quiz, Journal Sharing w/ Classmates/Parents/Guardians

One of these seven classes will likely be cancelled due to weather, so an additional class is scheduled to accommodate that.

At each session, the class will work on one journal entry together and then the student will have the opportunity to choose additional subject(s) they would like to journal. The teacher will guide the journaling process for each student.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

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

- By the mid-point of this class, the student will be familiar with journaling skills and use them in his/her own journal.
- By the end of this class, the student will have a solid understanding of how to observe nature more closely and draw/write about what they observe.
- By the end of this class, the student will be able to share what they have learned with others.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

- 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.

- Each student's notebook/journal will be reviewed at the end of the class for completeness and progress over the course of the class.
- Each student will share their favorite journal entry/entries with the class and parents/guardians during the final class.

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

CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

Attendance: 80% of the scheduled classes. Students can make up any missed classwork by emailing the teacher and getting the notes for that class.

Weather: If the Berrien Springs Public Schools are closed due to inclement weather, this class will be cancelled as well. Otherwise, dress for the weather and sitting on the ground.

Other: Parents/guardians are required to stay nearby for the duration of each class.