

TALKING CANVAS VOLUNTEER PRESENTER

Thank you for volunteering your time to participate as a Volunteer Presenter for our Talking Canvas Program at St. Francis School. We are very excited about this program and are hopeful that the enthusiasm you generate will rub off on our students! Even if you feel you have very little knowledge of art, more than likely you will find working with the students very rewarding and educational. **One of our primary goals is to have the volunteers use more of the purchased supplies and leave them in the classroom for the students to enjoy. We have many books, games, videos, etc.....we have spent a lot of money on them....please use them!!!**

The purpose of Talking Canvas is to stimulate awareness on the aesthetic world around us. Through Talking Canvas, we hope to inspire in the children a lifetime interest in and appreciation of art in its various forms. Since viewing art is a personal experience, we will be trying to evoke the student's emotional awareness of the art form presented. By identifying design qualities, finding relationships, drawing inferences, and finding emotional content within the art work, you will give each student the opportunity to develop his or her own opinions and to solicit and respect the opinions of others. The main goal of this program is to help students feel comfortable with art in a relaxed and accepting way. They will soon realize that there is no Aright@ or Awrong@ responses to art. Hopefully this will be the beginning of a lifelong appreciation of art for you and the children!

BASIC FORMAT FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

- 1) Discuss the artist - biography
- 2) Present and describe the painting/sculpture - question what they see and how it makes them feel.
- 3) Discuss the formal elements - line, shape, color, composition, whatever seems noteworthy.
- 4) Encourage their reaction - would you like this in your home? How does it make you feel? Is the name given to the painting well chosen? (There are lots of suggested questions in your packet.)
- 5) Do a project if time allows.
- 6) Leave books, additional materials in the classroom for the students to enjoy.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1) You are responsible for contacting the teacher and setting up a mutually agreeable presentation time. Your presentation should last approximately 20-30 minutes. We encourage you to make the presentation during the first full week of the month. Then leave the print in the classroom for the remainder of the month so they may continue to discuss it. You may do your presentations together with the other classroom Volunteer Presenter assigned to your room or you can alternate, whatever the two of you work out is fine.

2) You will need to be prepared with some basic information about your assigned artist and the time in which they lived. There is a folder of information and suggestions

for each artist. There are also some general resource books available with the Talking Canvas supplies. You will feel more comfortable if you check out the folder and picture in advance and study them. Other great resources are the Internet, libraries and the Art Center library in Des Moines. If you call ahead, they will pull information on specific artists for you. We will all benefit if you add your information to the folder so that it may be reused. Please also share any successful or creative ideas that you used. Let us know what types of questions or activity encouraged lively discussions and participation. A note of caution - too many facts can bore children, but interesting facts and details help in the interest level and discussions.

3) Please follow closely the check out procedure for all folders, books, prints, videos, etc. All of these materials belong specifically to our Talking Canvas Program and we need to keep track of them. Please also retrieve and return the prints at the end of each month so they can be used by the next Presenter.

4) Please don't stray from the assigned artists. We have designed the curriculum so that there is no repetition. You can use whatever creativity you want with the assigned artist however!

5) A volunteer's attitude is crucial. Try to be pleasant, enthusiastic, courteous, inviting, confident and relaxed (whew!). It is important to be an objective listener who respects the opinions of others. Some effective responses include, "I never thought of that", "Great!", "Thank you for sharing your thoughts", and "That was a good idea!". Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." or "What do you think?"

6) Please feel free to consult with Mr. Southward or Sara Anderson, our art teachers....we are so fortunate to have them!

7) We would like for you to send home a parent newsletter each month. This is not mandatory but we think parents can't be informed enough about what is going on in their child's life. We have come up with a form that that you can fill in and copy or you can come up with your own. It doesn't have to be lengthy, just a few quick facts to spark a conversation at home. You can even hand write in the form and then make copies in the workroom!

Most of all, we hope this will be a FUN experience for you and the children. Your constructive ideas are always welcome! Please let us know if there are any comments, concerns, questions or problems.

Thank you all!!

Rena O'Brien 226-0256

Patti Probst 225-0654

Talking Canvas Coordinators

TALKING CANVAS

PROCEDURES FOR CHECKING OUT FOLDERS, PRINTS, VIDEOS & BOOKS

- 1) All materials are located in the work room cabinets on the South wall. Our prints are arranged by grade level on storage shelves. The folders, videos, books, etc. are stored in large plastic bins. Everything should be marked **“Property of St. Francis Talking Canvas”**.
- 2) Please use the check out sheets each time you remove anything from the work room. **This is very important.** Please remember to return the folders as soon as you are done with them in the classroom because someone else will need it to plan for the following month. The print should be left in the classroom until the end of the month. Please remember to retrieve it and cross your name off the sign out sheet when you return it to the storage room.
- 3) We have several books to utilize. Some are located in the specific artist’s folder and some are more general and are located in the boxes. **PLEASE check them out and leave them in the classroom for the students to enjoy.** We have spent a lot of money on our materials and they are underutilized! Please remember to retrieve them as well at the end of the month.
- 4) There are several videos and one for every grade level. Since they are approximately 30 minutes long, you may want to arrange with the classroom teacher for her to present the video on her own time so as not to take up your presentation time. Perhaps the students could view it during a class party or something. Please be sure to either sign out the video yourself or show the classroom teacher how to do it.
- 5) Our art teachers, have graciously agreed to allow us to borrow a few supplies from them. (Brushes, paper, paint, paint shirts etc.) They need 2 weeks notice if you are going to borrow anything. This way they can plan ahead and as some supplies are limited, they will know if the supply will be available. Please make arrangements in advance to pick the materials up at a time when it will not disrupt art classtime and please return materials in the same condition as they were given to you.