

# Taste of the Arts Class Descriptions

**INTRODUCTION TO THE GUITAR:** Learn the different parts of the instrument. Tuning by ear and using electronic tuners. How to hold the guitar and placement of the hands. Learn how to play some basic chords needed to play some easy beginner songs. Each student will need to bring in a guitar, preferably acoustic but an electric with or without a battery powered amp would be ok. Each guitar should have all the strings in place. Guitar strings are available at Meijer and Walmart. Extra light gauge strings are recommended for beginners. Guitar pick is optional.

**THEATRE ARTS WORKSHOP:** Children will be learning some basic theatre techniques. We will touch on some of the different aspects of what goes into a production. Acting will be incorporated along with a few short skits.

**FUSED GLASS :** A decorative glass created by stacking thin sheets of glass and fusing them together in a kiln (1100 degrees to 1500 degrees). Students will fabricate a glass jewelry pendant (10 and under and a small plate 11+) **NOTE: Class will be held in the artist's Plainwell studio and not at the Library; so transportation to and from the class will need to be arranged. Additionally, the finished item will need to be picked up from the Library after the firing process.**

**MIXED MEDIA EXPLOSION** Look at junk in a different way! From broken baubles, bottle caps & great pieces of old wood... colorful broken glass, buttons and stones you will be AMAZED at what your talents can create!

**3-COLOR COLLAGRAPH PRINTING:** This class explores making 3-color prints using collagraphs, a type of relief print made from three-dimensional collaged materials. Students will learn about graphic design, printmaking techniques, and color theory during the process.

**EMBROIDERY HOOP SCREEN PRINTING :** Students will make a simple silk-screen matrix using an embroidery hoop, which they can use to embellish t-shirts and other items. Students will learn about silkscreening, simple graphics, and textile printing.

**ABCs OF CALLIGRAPHY:** Calligraphy is the art of beautiful handwriting. Students will learn about some of the tools and materials that calligraphers use. They will practice basics of using a broad-edged marker to write italic letters and learn some simple ways to decorate letters for envelopes, cards and books. Classes will practice writing the letters in their names and the students will make a bookmark, greeting card or a simple handmade book.

**NATURE - THE ORIGINAL ART:** We'll walk around the Gilkey School outdoor area looking at trees, wildflowers, birds, and butterflies. At this time of year, many young birds are out of the nest and active, summer wildflowers are at their best, and butterflies can be abundant. There is a butterfly garden at Gilkey filled with native plants, where we hope to see several kinds of these gorgeous insects. It would be best to wear long pants and long sleeves in case the less desirable insects are also present.

**FELTING :** Students will learn to felt over a flat resist object ending up with a felted bar of soap that can be used in the bath or shower (10 and under), and a cell phone bag (11+)

**POTTERY :** Students will work with a slab of clay to create a decorative fish. The slabs will be decorated with colored slips. They will be bisque fired and then a clear glaze will be applied by the instructor. The items will have to be picked up at the Library 1-2 weeks after the workshop. **NOTE:** Pigments in the colored slip may stain clothing.

**TIE DYE:** Let color theory come to life in this fun and messy class. You will learn how primary color dyes can be combined to make new colors. Several folding and banding methods will be demonstrated; pick your favorite and make an original piece of wearable art! Please state child's t-shirt size on application (Youth S,M,L, XL.) **NOTE:** The dyes used in this class are permanent. The clothing worn to class will be damaged if dye falls upon it. Therefore, it is highly recommended that old clothes be worn. Paint shirts will be provided.

**STAINED GLASS MOSAIC:** Mosaic is a picture or decorative design made by gluing small colored pieces (often stone or tile) into a surface and filling the spaces between with a concrete-like mixture called grout. It's not as simple as the tile on your bathroom floor, however. This is an art form without limits! Try it for the first time by personalizing the light switch in your room and making a small picture frame. Please count the number of switches on your bedroom switch plate before coming to class. (There are one, two, and three slot switch plates, so knowing the one that fits your switch is important.) Teen class will include a switch plate and a picture frame and learn proper glass cutting and breaking techniques, allowing you to create more complex shapes and patterns for your project.