

# Art Program



## Creativity and Creation

The first book of the Bible, *Genesis*, makes it clear that God, the author and creator of life, made us in His image and our creativity is a natural reflection of this. Michelangelo said, "A true work of art is but a shadow of the divine perfection." In art, students have the chance to go on an adventure through time as they learn about some of the great masters of art, their lives and the art they created. While studying these artists, students further engage with the artist through creating an art piece reflective of the artist's style. Each year, five-to-six artists are studied in a rotating cycle so that by the time a student reaches the sixth grade, they will have studied at least 30 different artists. As part of this art adventure, artists have included:

*Leonardo da Vinci*

Italian Renaissance – 1500s

*Claude Monet*

French Impressionist – Late 1800s

*Vincent van Gogh*

Dutch Post-Impressionist – Late 1800s

*Winslow Homer*

American Landscape Painter – Late 1800s

*Georgia O'Keeffe*

American Painter – Early 1900s

*Wayne Thiebaud*

American Painter – 1950s

*Robert Lang*

Modern Origami – Modern

*Jim Dine*

American Pop Artist – Modern

In addition to studying the masters, there is a "classroom connection" component designed to enhance the classroom curriculum. Grade level examples of this include:

## Kindergarten

The kindergartners begin their NorthCreek art experience by drawing their class mascots and renditions of their home to accompany a unit on community. Later in the year, subjects such as Abe Lincoln, insects, whales, and fish are drawn, painted and colored.

## First Grade

To enhance their literature unit, students draw and paint purple cows in connection with the poem, *I Never Saw a Purple Cow*. First graders also have fun creating a bubble painting as a complement to a science unit on solids, liquids and gases, with the paint as the liquid, the paper as a solid and, as they blow into the paint, they create the bubbles – the gas. Another example of integrating art into other subjects is when the students create a watercolor painting of Lady Liberty to complement their history unit.

## Second Grade

Similarly, the second graders illustrate green kangaroos to accompany the book, *The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo*. While studying the properties of gravity, balance and motion, these principles are reinforced as the students draw roller coasters. In learning how to read a map, students draw their own, complete with a compass rose and map legend.

## Third Grade

To extend their science unit, third graders complete detailed crayfish drawings. Several times during the year, they take on the role of an illustrator. For example, after reading *Mr. Poppers Penguins*, the students draw penguins, and, after reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, they draw a chocolate room. Reading *Charlotte's Web* gives them the opportunity to draw Charlotte's barn with Wilbur.



## Fourth Grade

To enhance a fourth-grade California history unit, paper bags are used to make faux leather which students combine with Native American hieroglyphics to illustrate the story of Creation. As part of another history-based art project, the students sketch a California mission, concentrating on the art element of "value." The fourth graders also illustrate text from *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, using torn paper, pencil and watercolors to create a mixed-media collage.

## Fifth Grade

While reading C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, fifth-grade students draw their version of Aslan. *Call It Courage* by Sperry, is used as inspiration for fifth-grade student art creations. The students use the story as the inspiration for drawings and paintings of an underwater scene that recalls the courage of Mafatu. As part of a unit about colonial times, they make a loom which they use to create a unique weaving project, truly bringing history to life for these students.