

Arts + ABCs = 100% At Adams School

ADAMS SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 2000 Jefferson, is a kindergarten through third grade facility with 340 students and 21 teachers. Principal Marcey Wells says, "Art is an essential part of the learning process because students have various talents and a strong arts program gives those students, with different types of talent, a chance to express themselves. Art is another avenue of communication for everyone."

Special education teacher Tiffany Tomlinson says, "Teaching special education can be somewhat challenging at times, but I find that fitting art into my curriculum is simple yet very beneficial for my students. Many students with special needs have sensory needs that should be met daily. An example could be finger painting or gluing small objects onto a piece of paper. Fine motor skills that come easy for other students are more difficult for my students. Therefore, art lessons often consist of activities including cutting, tearing, coloring and painting."

Tanya Sparrow, kindergarten teacher says, "I use art for a variety of purposes. It helps children develop their fine motor skills when they cut with scissors, mold with clay and by just holding a pencil or crayon correctly. I also use art for extensions in literacy. We make art projects to go along with books or poems we have read. We also use functional art to help children learn to follow steps in a certain order. The children really enjoy being creative, and they don't even realize they are learning certain skills."

Kindergarten teacher Amy Sutton says, "I use art in the classroom on a daily basis. Students learn best when they use all of their senses. They are presented with lots of tactile materials like beans, yarn, glitter and sequins that they use to write words. We are also strengthening our fine motor muscles so we do lots of sculpting with play dough and clay. The children love to create and they love to have opportunities to 'make stuff!'"

Karen Kroeger, also a kindergarten teacher says, "In my classroom I try to incorporate art in almost every subject. Whether it is painting

a picture, mixing colors or creating a craft such as butterflies from coffee filters, young children take pride in their creations. Art develops fine motor skills, but it also builds observations skills which benefit children in many ways. As children look closely at details, they are training their eyes and their minds to compare and contrast. In literacy, children begin to notice many concepts of prints such as features of lettering and words. In math and science, children are observing the characteristics in nature. Identifying

and paint a tree during each of the four seasons for science. We do functional art projects where students follow written directions to create projects. One overall benefit of children doing art projects is that it improves fine motor skills that

they will use in many ways throughout their school experience. Another benefit is that it encourages children to use their imaginations to create unique projects."

Carol Schaffer-Bent teaches second grade. She says, "We use art for a variety of reasons. One is to promote the arts itself. Another is to tie it in with other core subjects such as writing and math. Artistic kites teach children symmetry, geometric shapes, patterns and line segments."

Third grade teacher Polly Sprick says, "Art is integrated throughout all areas of our curriculum. Students create illustrations and design borders when publishing writing pieces. During math a variety of concepts are visually reinforced through manipulations and artistic creations, especially in geometry and in solving problems."

Amy Greenbank, third grade teacher says, "As an artist, I find ways to incorporate art into my curriculum regularly. Throughout the year students are encouraged to illustrate and publish their writing. This year we made paper mosaics and 3D butterflies. For a classroom museum, children are responsible for designing a poster board, models and diagrams for their exhibit."

The evidence of an arts education can be seen daily in the halls of Adams School. Every year the school maximizes its dollars to offer new and different opportunities for students. This goal is reached by utilizing the educational programs of QSFA, especially In\$tant Art\$ Dollar\$.

Students took trips to the Quincy Art Center, classes with Cheryl Loatsch and went to a performance of *Miss Nelson is Missing* at the Quincy Community Theatre.



Front: OLIVIA OENNING, AMBER BRADFORD;
Back: DESTINY SCHNEIDER, LYDIA FERGUSON, MADISON MEYER

patterns and shapes become easier when children use these skills."

First grade teacher Sandra Caan says, "Art is used to enhance all curricular areas. Whether students are illustrating to get an idea for a writing piece or painting a tree to show seasonal changes, art increases their understanding. Functional artwork is a part of reading centers. Students read directions and complete art pieces. Not only do they utilize their reading skills, but they are also developing fine motor skills."

Amber Speckhart, also a first grade teacher, says, "I use art everyday in class. It is a great way to help students use fine motor skills, follow directions and develop visual skills. We paint, do pastels and draw. We use art in centers and we always draw pictures to match our writing, so we love to illustrate."

First grade teacher Stacey Reichert says, "We use art in the classroom to support other subject areas. We observe

Fine Art Students Score The Highest Grade Point Averages And Record The Best School Attendance!