

The Art Room

All classes come to art each week. Since most are divided in half students receive individual attention and also have opportunity to make their own decisions about their art projects. Typically, each student's finished project is unique in its own right, while also sharing with all the others the goals of the art lesson.

Art projects address the Illinois State Goals of art elements and art principles (the "parts of speech" and the "grammar" of visual and spatial objects). Also, a broad variety of media and processes is covered in combination with these. In this way our students learn to know many different ways of approaching common challenges and to receive experience in how to accept a variety of objectives, from precise to casual. Learning to work within guidelines while also exploring options of their own choosing is particularly important for our student population.

Besides the encyclopedia of elements and principles of art, and utilization of media — which can be called the "productive domain," in many ways our students also pay attention to the social and the expressive and the narrative aspects of art — which are part of the "affective domain." Subject matter grounded not only in the individual's school, family and seasonal celebrations, but also in the various all-school programs (that involve character training, classroom study of states and nations, and multi-department programs such as the play and the Christmas concert) provide immediate and meaningful basis for students to "make a difference" with their skills, ideas, discoveries, and masterpieces that then fill the halls of Clare Woods Academy.

