

The Clay Teacher™

Preparing for Class

Each class requires 75 to 90 minutes for the pottery demonstration, instructions for the projects, and for the students to finish their work.

First The Clay Teacher will demonstrate how to make a pot on the potter's wheel. (The classroom teacher will keep the vase made in the demonstration. It will be returned with the projects.) A table to demonstrate the projects is required close to an electrical outlet. The Clay Teacher will use the table for the pottery throwing demonstration and also as a work surface for demonstrating the project.

The Clay Teacher will bring all the necessary clay, containers for water, and any wooden tools or toothpicks required for the workshops. The Clay Teacher will require access to a source of water; a sink is preferable.

Volunteers are encouraged to assist with each class.

For ECS one volunteer per 3 or 4 students is best.

For grades one and two we suggest one volunteer per each 5 or 6 students.

For grade three and up a couple of volunteers per class are nice to have but not necessarily required. Of course parents are always welcome.

One point that needs to be emphasized to your volunteers is that the projects are first and foremost the student's project. Parents should be hands off as much as possible while providing guidance and encouragement.

If it is possible it is best if the students have enough room in front of the table to leave their desks and sit on the floor. Once they are away from their desks and on the floor they pay close attention, they are closer and everyone can see. If they are in desks and in rows, it is very difficult for the children in the back to see what is happening in the front.

Each student will need two layers of paper towels on their desk or table top. Extra paper towels are often necessary. When making masks it is recommended to have two sheets of printer paper per student to serve as a work surface. It is difficult to work on table or desks that are covered in paper or plastic. It is often easier to wash the surface than try to protect it. It's clean dirt, its clay! The Clay Teacher and volunteers will wipe the table and work surfaces following the class.

Students should wear clothes that they don't mind getting a little gray clay on. The clay will not stain or hurt the clothing in any way. They might get a gray powder on their clothes that will completely wash out. If they are concerned about getting dirty, please make sure they wear something they feel comfortable in. The clay used is "Buff-stone" from Plainsman Pottery Supply. (Wet clay poses no known health or allergy risks. The MSDS sheet is available on The Clay Teacher website.)