

The Clay Teacher

Tips for Painting and Finishing your Clay Projects

Projects returned by The Clay Teacher are fired in the kiln but remain fragile. Please remind your students they will break easily. If a student's project has had pieces separate in firing they will be taped together when we send them back to you and you can glue them back on once the project is returned. A glue gun usually works best.

Before the students begin painting their project we suggest a few minutes of visualization and planning take place before they begin to paint.

Acrylic Paints Provide a Simple One Step Finish

If your school does not have acrylic paints they can be purchased at art and craft supply stores. They are available in a variety of colours. Younger children especially will require some supervision to protect their clothing.

Tempera Paints or Felt Markers are a Good Two Step Finish

Any water based paint or marker can be used on the returned project. For picture frames and other projects with small details permanent markers sometimes work best. This should then be followed by a low odour clear coat spray, applied by an adult. The advantage of water based paints is they are easier to clean up, but they do require more handling because of the extra step. A variation would be to use a glitter spray instead of the clear coat.

For more involved project designs such as Chinese Dragons or Cultural Masks it is sometimes better for the students to first sketch their projects on paper. This way they can select and try various colours by using felt pens or pencil crayons before painting the clay piece.

To Dress Up or repair a Project Use a Hot Glue Gun

For added sparkle or decoration the students may want to add string hair, dry flowers, faux jewels, picture cut outs, or other items. Sometimes a project may break while being handled. Repairs can usually be made with the use of a glue gun.

Pack the Project Carefully for the Trip Home

Please wrap the projects carefully in paper to ensure they make the trip home safely.