

The Teaching Artist

A teaching artist is a highly-skilled professional artist who also possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to instruct others about the arts. The teaching artist by definition is both an artist- an accomplished professional actively engaged in the creative process and refinement of their artistic skill; and an educator, actively engaged in learning and developing the skills needed to be an effective educational collaborator.

As an arts-integration specialist in the classroom, the teaching artist's task is two-fold: 1) to provide high-quality arts instruction that goes above and beyond what the student is exposed to through the standard curriculum; 2) to provide authentic connections between the specific artistic processes the student is exploring and the corresponding curriculum area.

As a co-teacher in a collaborative residency, the teaching artist's task is to provide the artistic and methodological training that the classroom teacher needs to deliver quality arts instruction in an authentic arts-integrated curriculum. The ultimate goal of the residency should be to hand off the instruction to the classroom teacher so he/she is able to recreate the experience with subsequent classes and apply the knowledge gained in making new curriculum connections.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A TEACHING ARTIST

A teaching artist should:

- Have a strong background in the arts which can include arts education, demonstrable mastery of the art form, professional artistic experience, and/or professional arts education experience.
- Be committed to working in an interdisciplinary environment that promotes academic achievement in writing and the arts.
- Have experience working with school-age children.
- Be professional in demeanor, appearance, and approach.
- Demonstrate an understanding of professional expectations and ethical standards.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A TEACHING ARTIST

- Continue to develop and grow as an artist
- Actively engage in acquiring knowledge on best teaching practices and current educational trends
- Provide an exceptional quality arts experience above and beyond what is available at the school level
- Make authentic connections between the arts and the subject area
- Collaborate with the school teams and individual teachers
- Maintain a professional appearance and demeanor
- Advocate for the arts as a fundamental part of a comprehensive education