

INTEGRATING ART IN THE CLASSROOM



<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/metkids/>

<http://www.metmuseum.org/one-met-many-worlds/eng/details>

<http://educators.mfa.org/>

<http://wonderteacher.com/tips-for-classroom-movement/>

<http://wonderteacher.com/5-reasons-to-get-students-moving/>

Dear Teachers,

With so many schools putting art on the back burner these days, I am so glad our school knows how vital creativity and artmaking is for the academic future of our kiddos. I'm sorry I couldn't be there with you all to brainstorm but please feel free to download on me with comments and questions and requests for odds and ends from the art room. Also know that the art room is available to you for your classes Tuesdays through Thursdays if you feel like bringing the students there.

This is the ongoing request I get from students, "why can't we have more art time?" I am excited that we may be moving in that direction. I have some very easy suggestions for you, and you might want to join in! You will sense the peace that comes as a result of spending short moments of artmaking.

- The most basic thing you can add, and it may be the only thing you have time for right now, is exposing the students to important artworks for your time period. I have links that can help and even if you just do it once or twice a month, the kids will be enriched. We often don't have time for this as much as we need to in art class.
- Draw or doodle. Allow the kids short moments (ten minutes or so) to draw whatever they want or tell a story through doodling. This is something I wish I had time to incorporate. In fact, it would be great if they all had one sketchbook for nature studies as well as doodling for the whole year, not to be taken home until the last day!
- Play with modeling clay. They don't have to necessarily create anything specific, but this will give their mind a rest and support motor skills and create sensory awareness.
- Movement: There are some students who are in need to perform or who actually like drawing attention (usually in a negative way) to themselves. Perhaps giving them options to role play, communicate a scene without the use of words, or have movement breaks when you switch to new subjects will help the brain open up for more learning. Maybe they can shoot a paper ball into a can when they do something well. We don't think of this as art but using our bodies to communicate is a form of releasing energy and making a unique mind/body connection. I saw Ms. Hooker implement something similar with her freeze dance sessions for PrK.