

Fine Art Center OF KERSHAW COUNTY

Dear New In-School Coordinator:

Thank you for agreeing to be an In-School Coordinator for the Fine Arts Center's School Arts program. The School Arts program, the largest outreach activity of the Fine Arts Center of Kershaw County, is a major partnership between the Fine Arts Center and the Kershaw County School District. Operating under the regulations of the South Carolina Arts Commission's Arts in Education Program, School Arts puts professional artists in the schools for residencies and performances.

An artist-in-residence is in the school every day during the residency period teaching his art form to at least 3 classes of students each day. The artist is required to work 20 classroom hours and 2 community service hours per week. The community service can be a workshop for teachers, meeting parents and faculty at PTO and faculty meeting, or speaking or performing for other members of the student body, or the community.

Teachers are encouraged to regard the artist's time in the classroom as an opportunity, not only for sharing a new experience with students, but as a chance to learn from the artist how to incorporate the arts into their curriculum.

Under the terms of our grant from the SCAC, a final report must be made which includes the number of students and teachers who participate plus samples of evaluations from teachers, principals and students. Newspaper publicity and pictures of artists with students are also enclosed with the final report. You can understand how important it is for me to receive the completed evaluation forms in this packet.

The School Arts program is a very important part of the mission of the Fine Arts Center, which is to enrich the lives of Kershaw County citizens by providing a wide variety of cultural experiences and opportunities for creative expression. School Arts, through the residency program and the Performance Series, provide many students with virtually their only exposure to live professional artists. Working with an artist during a residency gives students an opportunity to discover what the arts can mean to their lives.

Teachers can bring excitement and a new dimension to their classrooms by hosting a resident artist. Creative writing, puppetry, storytelling, drama, crafts, music, and dance can each be integrated into almost any subject. Performances can enrich the curriculum and reinforce standards.

Each year as our program grows, so do our expenses. Please encourage the parent support group at your school to make a donation to School Arts to help in our efforts to bring arts experiences to your students. If School Arts is not in the PTO/Booster Club budget, please talk with your principal about bringing it to the attention of the officers.

Again, thanks for your willingness to give of your time and talents to help School Arts add an extra dose of the arts to your students' lives. This program would not be possible without you.

Sincerely,
Bert

Bert Karesh
School Arts Program Director