

Learning to Look
2016 - 2017
Parent Volunteer Orientation

Learning to Look Co-chairs

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Please contact us if you have any questions during the year.

Learning to Look is an art appreciation and art history program for children. LTL is a teaching method that identifies the elements of art: color, light, line, texture, shape and space. The LTL curriculum focuses on these elements in the artworks we study and how the artists use them to communicate ideas and feelings.

- As a volunteer, you will conduct four or five classroom sessions; 45 - 60 minutes each.
- You will receive the artwork curriculum and suggested classroom projects.
- You should access the teaching manual in the LTL section of the Fox Meadow PTA website.
- Grades 1 - 5 will all work with the same curriculum - Old Masters.
- There are posters of the artwork in the LTL closet, or you may use the classroom's Smartboard to project the images.
- We will provide templates for project books. These can be found on the LTL website. We recommend that you fill in your class information in the appropriate places, print these pages at home, then copy and bind for each student in your class. (We will arrange for printing upon request. We can not reimburse for printing at Kinkos!) We will provide report covers and

plastic spines to create bound books. These can be found in the LTL closet. For those who are creative, feel free to modify the template or to create your own book from scratch.

- Optional: You may send an e-mail to your class (copying the teacher) several days before you will be teaching encouraging the parents to look up the paintings on the Met website with their child. This will further communication about LTL at home. Please be sure to stress to the parents that it is optional and that they are not supposed to prepare their children for the class - it is just supposed to be fun. Alternatively, you can send an email after the class to share the details of the session.
- In the past, we have taken the First Grade, Third Grade and Fifth grade to museums in the Spring. Please stay tuned for more information about museum trips for this school year.

How to Get Started

Meet with your Teacher

Do this as soon as possible. Talk with your teacher about how s/he would like you to organize the LTL program in the classroom. Some teachers have very specific preferences about all aspects of the program—others let the parent volunteers decide. Share the curriculum with the teachers. The Old Masters are new for most of them and this will help s/he be familiar with what we are covering.

Projects: We encourage you to speak with your teachers about the projects. Some may want to modify the projects (or use other projects all together) in order to incorporate LTL into their own curriculum. Others will want the volunteers to lead the projects on their own. Finally some may choose to use a project or two as a buddy class activity.

Dates: Schedule all the classroom session dates in advance with the teacher, once a month or every 6 weeks, ending by mid-April. Note: some teachers will prefer to group the sessions together (e.g., once a week) so that they can treat it as a unit of study.

Once the dates are set, please fill them in the google docs calendar on the website and indicate if you will be using the posters as we will only have 2 or 3 posters of each work. Additionally, materials will need to be shared. Please be courteous and return the posters to their slots and materials to their shelves immediately after you are done using them. There is nothing worse than coming in to teach and having to run through the other classrooms trying to find the materials!!!

Meet with the Other Parent Volunteers for your Class

Go through the curriculum and decide how you would like to break up the teaching between you. A few of you are working in groups of three and will need to divide responsibilities for each class accordingly.

Conducting the Classroom Sessions

Conduct yourself like a teacher

Agree with your teaching partner in advance about classroom timing. Each artwork presentation should last for approximately 15 - 18 minutes. If you are doing a project, the remaining time will then be devoted to the project.

Be prepared - read the teaching materials in advance and do whatever is easiest for you to ensure a smooth presentation (notes, index cards, etc.); DO NOT just read from the teaching materials!

Remember who your audience is. The LTL program is designed to be an interactive discussion between the parent volunteers and the kids. If you are speaking more than the kids, you are saying too much!

The question/answer format presented in the teaching materials is very effective. You don't have to stick to it word-for-word or cover everything, just use it as a guide but again please do not read from it! Use four or five questions to guide the discussion. Let them talk and discover the painting together.

Look the part. Dress appropriately - no sweats, tennis or workout clothes. And please remember that you are there to teach the class

and do NOT use this time to discuss any personal issues with the teacher.

Projects. If you are doing a project, do NOT wait until the night before to decide what you are going to do. Be prepared. Make sure the materials you need are in the LTL closet. All necessary materials for the projects are detailed in the Project Book and are organized and labeled in the LTL closet (Please do not purchase your own supplies for projects as we cannot reimburse you). You can also be creative and create your own projects. Please notify one of us if you can't find what you need or we're running low on something. During the project, rotate through the classroom assisting the children as needed. If the project requires a camera, please bring your own. If you can, please print out a group photo for each child on your home computer and add it to each child's project book. You can mount any of the children's drawings on construction paper (there will be plenty in the LTL closet).

Be sure to finish on time, clean up the classroom after you're done, and put all the supplies back neatly in the LTL closet.

HAVE A GREAT LEARNING TO LOOK YEAR!