



A publication designed to build community pride and awareness in the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools

SEL Schools: *Where THE ARTS Flourish and Students Grow!*



The South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools provide so many opportunities for students as it relates to **The Arts and Arts Education** and what our children are able to learn with these experiences can only help them in the future. At just about every grade level, students are exposed to a comprehensive offering of both performing arts opportunities or classes in the visual or creative arts. "The commitment that the district has for the arts is both strong and significant," according to District Superintendent Linda N. Reid. "The skills that are created through these learning experiences are ones that will remain with a student after they leave our district and pursue future successes." While in the last edition of the Arc Pride newsletter, the community learned about its dedication to technology, residents served by our schools will see how this is properly blended with opportunities in the arts.

The SEL Schools firmly believes that the acts of creative expression build confidence and character. Whether students are painting, sketching, drawing or creating digital design on the latest in computer software programming...or, singing, playing an instrument, acting or helping with vital behind-the-scenes tasks for the performing arts, the SEL Schools finds value in providing these opportunities to students. From the Board

of Education members, district administration and building leadership, a commitment to The Arts is promoted so that students can develop life-characteristics such as leadership, expression, creativity, teamwork, communications and routine-building... all traits that will serve our students well in the future.

The students of the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools are blessed to have a devoted staff which fosters such opportunities with The Arts. Various advisors, art education instructors and music teachers are strategically placed at each grade level to give students a full offering of arts-related opportunities. These staff members are true professionals who are passionate about their craft. They infuse students with a similar enjoyment for creativity and self-expression. Many of these staff members participate in the arts and arts-related activities outside of their profession in their own personal time, further demonstrating the love they have for their craft. The SEL Schools is proud to have an Award-Winning team of professionals passing on the skills needed for success with the arts. This edition of the Arc Pride newsletter will focus on the various opportunities available to students at the SEL Schools in the performing, creative and visual arts.

"The SEL Schools are dedicated to meeting the demands of the future..."

-SEL Schools Core Value



SEL Schools Feature **AWARD WINNING** Arts Instructors!

The SEL Schools employs a number of award-winning teachers when it comes to the arts. The passion, energy and enthusiasm for which our instructors are acclaimed is clearly passed along to our students, who absorb that energy and infuse it into their own artistic expressions. From elementary to high school, the SEL Schools applauds its instructors for the awards that have been earned over the last several years. This section will highlight a few of those teachers right now so that the community knows exactly how highly recognized our instructors in THE ARTS have been over the years.



Brush High School Arts Teacher Sarah Curry with Students



SEL Teachers are always willing to help our students grow!

Brush High's Sarah Curry Receives Outstanding Art Teacher Award

Brush High School Art Teacher Sarah Curry was recently honored as the Northeast Ohio region's Ohio Art Education Association's "Outstanding Art Teacher of the Year" and received her award earlier this school year at the annual conference in Toledo, Ohio. In summarizing her overall teaching philosophy, Ms. Curry explained that 'giving students the power and faith to succeed when few expect greatness from them is one of the greatest gifts we can give.' Her approach is to train critical thinkers to reflect on themselves and the world around them. In addition to teaching at Brush High School, Ms. Curry is a professional artist as well, with work displayed at various galleries throughout the country. This is the seventeenth year Ms. Curry has been teaching art at Brush and leads a variety of classes including Painting, Drawing, Advanced Painting and Drawing and AP Studio Art. Her students truly enjoy her passion and enthusiasm for the subject of art and art instruction!

Julie Barcza Wins Regional Recognition!

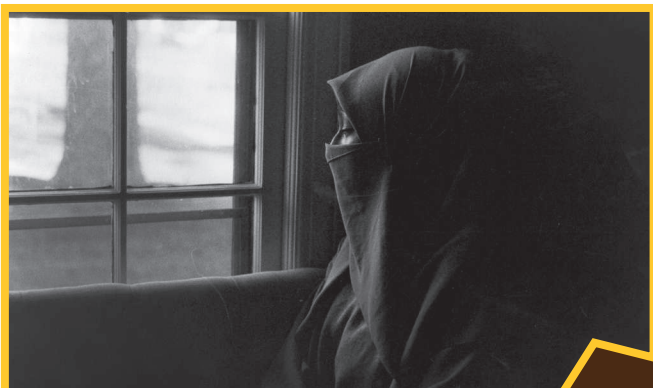
Adrian Elementary School Art Teacher Julie Barcza was recognized in 2016 by the Ohio Art Education Association with the North East Region's Outstanding Art Teacher award. Topping more than 2,000 art educators statewide, Julie earned this award with her dedication and hard work in promoting the arts to elementary students with such passion. Julie is a veteran art teacher in the South Euclid Lyndhurst system, having taught at Sunview, Rowland and Adrian in addition to the previously closed Ridgebury and Lowden schools. She attended Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Institute of Art's conjoined Master's of Art Education program. Julie indicates that she loves teaching art, particularly to elementary age students. She finds that their creative imaginations are inspiring, and that other subjects can be taught through art, such as Geometry, Geography, Social Studies and Science. For winning this award, Julie received a certificate, her story published in the OAEA newsletter and a golden artist's model. Her classroom is alive with excitement as our youngest students learn about art from this highly acclaimed art teacher in the SEL Schools.



Elementary Arts Teacher Julie Barcza was recognized as the OAEA Outstanding Art Teacher just last year!

Artwork on Display from More than Two Dozen Brush High School Students

Twenty-four of Brush High School's finest students had their artistic expressions on display in the local Scholastic Art and Writing Competition at the Cleveland Institute of Art. This competition, which highlights the hard work of local artists in grades 7 through 12, is a nationally credited awards program. Specifically, the artwork was on display between January 16 and February 2nd and was evaluated against more than 1,800 students who submitted more than 3,100 pieces of art and writing samples. Top prize is considered a Gold Key Winner, and those individuals go on to place at the national competition which is held in New York City.



These were sample artworks from students at C.F. Brush High School



... for all of NE Ohio to see...



...from January 16 – February 2 at the Cleveland Institute of Art.



Brush Show Choir Highlights Performing Arts Opportunities at District Elementary Schools

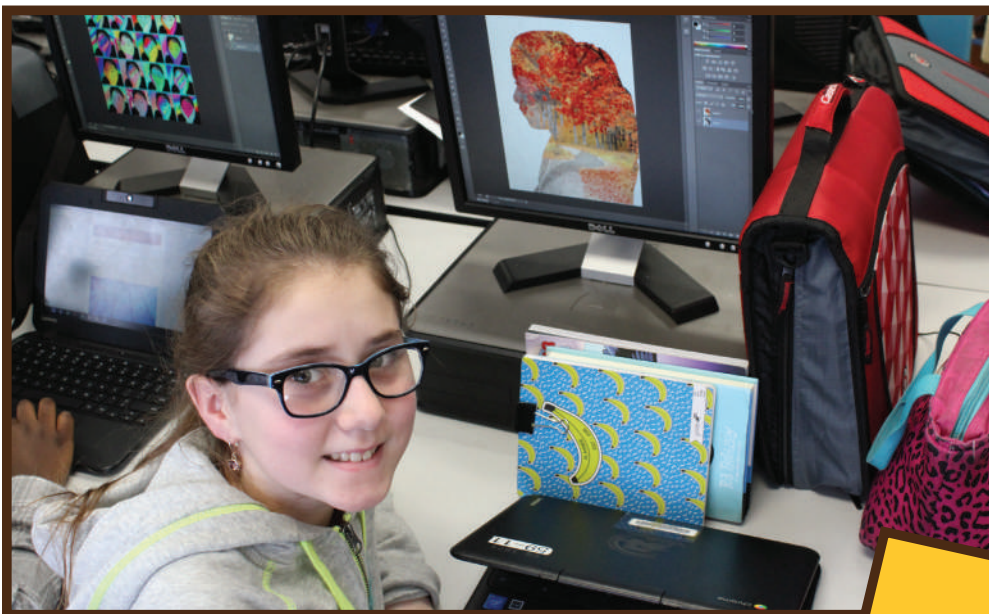
For many students in the SEL Schools, exposure to the performing and visual arts at the elementary level contributes to active participation within the wide variety of arts-based student groups and activities offered by the district. The Brush Show Choir recently performed at each of the district's elementary schools to generate student interest and showcase the group's impressive vocal and dance talents. The performance included several popular songs including The Voice Within by Christina Aguilera, Set It Off from Disney's Descendant's, and My Shot from the smash Broadway hit, Hamilton: An American Musical. Many of the Brush Show Choir members began attending the SEL Schools at the elementary level. Under the guidance of Brush Music Instructor Sara Ballou, and special advisor Gabriella Mack, a 2010 graduate of Brush High School, students in the Brush Show Choir diligently invest hours of rehearsal time to prepare for each performance. Both students and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed the energetic and exciting presentation, and had the opportunity to interact with the group's members before the start of the show. Overall, the Brush Show Choir's successful performance is another example of the enduring legacy of the SEL Schools' investment in The Arts.



Brush High School's Show Choir Entertains SEL Elementary Students



Memorial Students Demonstrate Learning Through Digital and Fine Arts



Fine Arts and Digital Arts Positively Converge at Memorial Junior High!

As part of the district's firm commitment to incorporating The Arts into student learning, Memorial Junior High School offers students a wide range of arts-based classes taught by professional educators. All class projects are aligned with Ohio's Fine Arts Standards. Students in Mrs. Laura Mayher's Digital Arts classes recently completed several projects using digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop software. From basic photo editing and graphic design techniques to more complex image manipulation, students demonstrated both creativity and critical thinking while developing skills utilized in the 21st century workforce. For Visual and Fine Arts, Mr. John Richards utilizes a variety of class projects to help students develop both artistic and problem-solving skills. Examples include learning the art of drawing solid objects on a two-dimensional surface to convey height, width, and position in relation to each other when viewed from a particular point. Students also created a three-dimensional drawing of a flower through the addition of shadows and other enhancements. Overall, the students take a great deal of pride in their artwork, which reflects a strong attention to detail and level of creativity.



District Leadership Elevates the Importance of Arts Education

Superintendent Linda N. Reid elevates the SEL Schools' dedication to arts education. She says that "the fine arts, digital arts and creative arts allows our students to receive a well-rounded education." Even more so, the arts permits students to develop a talent that may prove to be their ultimate career choice. The expression of art is so powerful that it can actually influence others, and that's why the SEL Schools promote it so strongly. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Veronica Motley goes on to state, "Past students from Brush go onto successful careers as artists and are nationally and internationally renowned. Best of all, the SEL Schools has maintained a long-standing tradition of excellence for decades. Fifty years' worth of graduates from Charles F. Brush High School are doing things successfully in the field of fine arts. Simply put, SEL's talent in the arts transcends diversity and generations. It's truly a crown Jewel of our school district and will continue to be embedded as part of our educational system."



Carol Spackey leads a recent performance by SEL's youngest vocalists



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SEL SPOTLIGHT

**ELLEN ROBERTS DREIBELBIS -
CHARLES F. BRUSH CLASS OF 1964**

C. F. Brush Graduate Goes Onto Successful Career in the Arts

To demonstrate the longevity of a dedication to the arts, this edition's District Spotlight focuses on a recent inductee to The Charles F. Brush's Alumni Wall of Achievement, Ellen Roberts Dreibelbis. Ellen, who graduated from Brush in 1964 was recently honored by The Artist's Magazine as one of ten "Amazing artists over 60" out of nearly 3,300 entries. She is quick to credit her art teachers Robert Mazur at Greenview and Fred Biehle at Brush for their guidance in improving her skills so many years ago. After high school, Ellen went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in painting, drawing and graphics and art education from Ohio State University in 1970. In addition to her career as an artist, Ellen has worked as a Library Technician and Technical Information Specialist at the Cleveland Heights-University Heights Public Library, the State of Ohio Library in Columbus, the U.S. Forest Service Library in Berkeley, California and the University of California in San Francisco. In the 1990's, Citibank commissioned her to create posters for corporate clients such as IBM and Toyota, which allowed her to cut back on her day job. She is now a full-time artist.

Over the years, Ellen has gained a respected standing among the art community, both in the Bay Area and nationally. She is a signature member of the Pastel Society of the West Coast, the Pastel Society of America, the American Society of Portrait Artists and the Sierra Pastel Society. Her oil and pastel paintings have won numerous awards in national and international competitions and have been featured in museums and galleries across the country. Her illustrative work has been part of children's books and been included in the book *Best of America Oil Paintings*. She has won the Alameda County Art Competition and participated in the prestigious Sausalito Art Festival.

The SEL Schools is very proud to share the accomplishments of its past graduates, and particularly one which has earned the honor of being recognized permanently in our Alumni Wall of Achievement. Ellen's work in the arts helps to keep our current students inspired that the highest achievements can and have been earned by students from the SEL Schools. Congratulations Ellen!



C.F. Brush graduate from 1964, and artist extraordinaire, Ellen Roberts Dreibelbis