

# *Mrs. Dulcey's Art Room*

## *Meet the teacher*

at



I'm Mrs. Joan Dulcey and have been the art teacher at St. Peters for 21 years. I started when my youngest daughter was in the fifth grade at St. Peters. Since I teach grades K-8, I cannot begin to tell you how many students I have taught!

I have a BA from Temple University in Philadelphia. During that time, I also spent one semester in Rome, Italy studying art history up front and personal. I also attended several art classes at the Tyler School of Art.

My particular interest is in Straw Art. I have been working with straw for over 25 years and also sometimes paint and quilt, but straw is my medium. I have traveled throughout the US and Europe. I have taken workshops in England and Serbia and taught in Poland in the summer of 2016 at an International Straw Festival. My work has been in the White House and I have won awards in two International Straw Mask competitions.

My husband and I have been married for 39 years and have two grown daughters and 5 grandchildren, ages from 2 to 10 years old. We are so thankful to have healthy happy grandchildren who don't live too far away.

## What happens in the art room?

I am blessed with a wonderful imagination, so I teach many different types of art forms to the children from 5 to 14 years old. It's great that I can watch the progress of my students over many years. I try to build on their skills and introduce increasing levels of art techniques each year. Because children have varied interests when it comes to art, I try to cover many aspects so that the children love to come to art and learn to appreciate art works, even if they don't think they are good at it. We do some group projects, but mostly the children work on their own.

As I am one of the teachers for the middle school “electives” as an extra class for 6-8 grades, I do some different kinds of projects with these students. This year I am bringing back “Pete’s Puppets” to this elective. I teach these students how to make Muppet style puppets, including the clothes and put on performances for the school. Ms. Potter will help me by having the students write scripts for this year’s shows. So not only will the children be making their own puppets, but they will be writing the scripts, creating the scenery and performing the shows! It will be an exciting time.

We will have a fun and an exciting year from “painting like Michelangelo” (under the tables} in Kindergarten to mini tree houses in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Come back to see some beautiful artwork throughout the year.

2018 Spring update:

8<sup>th</sup> Grade is finishing a long term, but very rewarding project. They have written, illustrated, and hand bound their own children’s stories. They have used incredible imagination and some of the stories even rhyme. They soon will be reading their stories to the second grade. The last two projects of the year will be an icon of the saint they chose for Confirmation or Jesus or Mary and mini tree houses, all done with natural materials. These are also two popular projects.

I am doing projects for our International festival coming up soon with third through 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Third is making Japanese dolls and hangings. Fourth is working on Mexican style foil crosses. Fifth is making Philippine Stars. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is making Mexican bark paintings and 7<sup>th</sup> grade is making coil baskets from Africa. 7<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed their calligraphy/ illuminated letter project and 5<sup>th</sup> grade made some very cute bird sculptures made from paper mache’ and a new fabric like material. 4<sup>th</sup> grade has been sewing very cute hand puppets for their biography book reports.



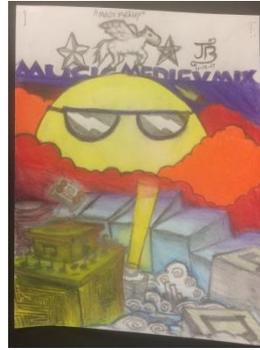
Second grade is finishing up their rain forest and is learning about Henri Matisse and Eric Carle to create collage ocean scenes.

Kindergarten and first grade will be making some fun spring art projects, including “pond pictures”, sheep in the pasture and others.



The art electives have already performed puppet shows and are practicing for their final performances. It has been a very exciting year for the puppeteers. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are reviving a the puppet show “Clue” that we had written about

10 years ago. 6<sup>th</sup> grade has written a Peter Pan adventure be quite enjoyable. There will be some fun commercials by the students.



which will also written

2018 Winter update:

Since the beginning of this school year I have introduced some new projects with my students. The seventh grade while studying Egypt in Social Studies also got to make Papyrus paper using real papyrus! It was quite an adventure as we soaked strips of the plant in water and then made a loose weave laying them on cloth covered boards, stacking them and putting piles of bricks on top of the stack to create pressure. We had to change the cloth often to draw out the moisture. Unfortunately, we learned that it's best not to do this project when the humidity is high from two weeks of almost solid rain! As a result it took much longer than anticipated. However, the students were eager to use their paper to make Egyptian style paintings and they came out quite nicely.



Eighth graders are currently working on creating children's stories.



They each wrote a short story and are illustrating it. They will use traditional book binding techniques to put their books together. They will get a chance to share their books with their prayer partners in the second grade. I am excited to see the finished



books as they are quite talented students.

8<sup>th</sup> grade CD covers for "The Music of My Life" a music and art project.

Sixth grade is working on a fun surrealistic drawing and fifth grade is working on Pueblo style pottery to go with the social studies unit on this Native American culture.

Fourth grade is making Indian shields. I am sharing how the Eastern tribes used real porcupine quills to decorate their clothing and other articles before using beads. We will simulate the quills using dyed straw applied to pieces on cloth. They will also make a puppet next quarter to go with a book report on a famous person.

I will continue to teach basic art skills to the lower grades using tried and true and some new projects. They also will have time to do "free art" where they do their own projects.



Cave art by 1<sup>st</sup> graders



Adinkra Cloths from Africa made by third grade

The art elective students are almost finished with their puppets and will soon be putting together some fun shows.