



Thompson and Stratton Schools

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Our Art Programs

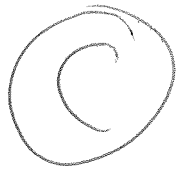
The Thompson and Stratton art programs are grounded in the philosophy of Teaching for Artistic Behavior (TAB). TAB teachers are guided by the belief that the child is the artist, and that the art room is their studio. Teachers plan their space and lessons around the question “What do artists do?”. In our TAB art programs, students are treated as contemporary artists, creating meaningful art that responds to their culture and the world at large.

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How Does TAB Support All Students?

The stages of artistic development follow the same sequence for everyone, yet they do not happen at the same age for everyone. TAB naturally differentiates learning, because students learn and explore at their own pace. The curriculum responds to student needs and connects with their motivations.

TAB guides children to think like artists. They become critical thinkers by implementing and working through their own ideas. Most of the artwork made in a TAB studio is not for exhibition. Play and experimentation are essential to creative development and confidence in artistic risk-taking. Process is valued over product to create an environment that supports creativity.

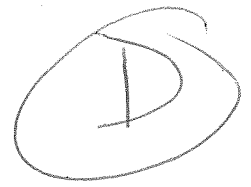


What is TAB?

Teaching for Artistic Behavior or TAB is a style of choice-based art education that focuses on students, their interests, ideas, and choices. It views the child as an artist, and the art room as their studio.

Like adult artists, students select content and media for their work. They have full ownership of the process, direction and outcome of their artwork.

The art teacher's role is as facilitator, guiding students as they explore and problem-solve. The art teacher provides time, space, materials and information so that students can develop ideas, experiment and determine the most effective ways to bring their ideas to life. In TAB, the product is secondary to the development of the child, and his or her ideas. (Douglas & Jaquith, 2009)

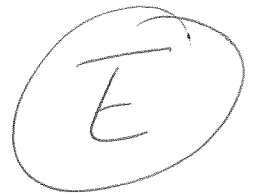


A TAB Class

Each class starts with a brief 5-10 minute lesson introducing a new technique, artist inspiration, or discussion of the Studio Habits of Mind. At times students may work on a skill-builder, which is a challenge to help students learn a specific skill.

Students spend most of the class time working on projects of their own design. They use materials from Studio Centers such as Drawing, Painting, Collage, Fibers, Construction, Printmaking and Ceramics. They may also choose to work individually, or to collaborate with classmates.

Projects displayed here represent students at all levels. Students choose work to display, and spend time reflecting on their process and product with each other and in a written Artist Statement.



Studio Habits of Mind

Developed by Lois Hetland and her colleagues, TAB uses the Studio Habits of Mind as guidelines for artistic discovery and growth. They are:

- Develop Craft
- Engage and Persist
- Envision
- Express
- Observe
- Reflect
- Stretch and Explore
- Understand the Art World (Make Connections)