**8th Grade Accelerated Ceramics**

***“Clay is the Way”***

**Ms. Damiano, edamiano@peekskillcsd.org**

Congratulations on being a part of the accelerated ceramics class! It is because of your hard work, talent and skill level that you exhibited from previous ceramic classes that you were recognized for the accelerated ceramics class this year.

**What’s different about 8th Grade Accelerated Ceramics?**

Most of you were a part of the 7th grade accelerated ceramics class, so you know what is different about the class. For those of you who were not, in last year’s class, you were introduced to basic ceramic terms and projects. You became familiar with the properties of clay, and how the kiln works. Accelerated ceramics is a full year course taken during your lunch period, every other day. Therefore**, it is important that you realize that you are taking a class during your lunch period**. You will be given 10-15 minutes at the beginning of each class period to eat your lunch, and then we will begin class. You will be given time to eat your lunch; however, you are still responsible for completing your assignments on schedule.

Because this is an advanced class, you need advanced work to challenge yourself. The 8th grade curriculum this year will be different than the past 2 years. There will be several different specific assignments posted in the classroom for you to complete; however, YOU decide which assignment you want to do. For example, two of you may begin the class by making a pinch pot, while 3 of you make a coil pot, 5 of you work on a slab project, etc. Everyone will have the same due date, regardless of the assignment. Assignments outside of class time will be given and we will be having critiques in class, which will give you an opportunity to showcase your talents and show off all of your hard work. While each assignment will have specific requirements, be creative and don’t be afraid to add your own personal and unique touch to it…this is your art, have fun!

Additionally, the accelerated art program at PKMS is designed so that **after 2 years you receive one high school art credit.**

**Some other important information to keep in mind**

* This is an advanced course. You do not need to be in the course if you do not want to, or if your behavior in the course chooses to remove you! You need to be independent thinkers and doers; I cannot be in 20 places at once.
* Clay can be difficult to work with at times. Based on the school schedule and break schedule, it is extremely important that you use your time wisely in the course in order to make sure all assignments are up to date. If you are absent, you are still responsible for making sure your clay project is on schedule (I cannot spray every single clay project in the school…know your work and what needs to be done.) I stay after school almost every day, use this to your advantage…come to callback!

**\*Tentative Schedule of Assignments** \*(*Note-this schedule and/or assignments may change at any time, students will be aware of any changes that may occur and it will be updated on the ceramics webpage)*

*\*Each project must have prior approval; there will be a sheet to complete for approval.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project** | **Construction Due Date** | **Glaze Due Date** |
| 1. *\*1st quarter* | 2nd week in October | 5th week in October |
| 2. *\*2nd quarter* | 4th week in November | 3rd week in December |
| 3. *\*3rd quarter* | 3rd week of January | 2nd week of February |
| 4. *\*3rd quarter* | 3rd week of March | 2nd week of April |
| 5. Free Clay Project*\*4th quarter* | 2nd week of May | 1st week of June |

**Please review this information with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and return the bottom portion signed no later than Tuesday, September 17, 2012.**

I,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ understand the above information and the accelerated ceramics curriculum. I am aware that I am responsible for completing all assignments in the class and by not completing an assignment by its due date can significantly hurt my overall grade in the class. I am also aware that my behavior in class can affect my grade.

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_