**Why learn about Ceramics?**

The word "ceramics" comes from the Greek word *keramikos*, meaning "pottery". Most traditional ceramic products were made from clay (or clay mixed with other materials), shaped and subjected to heat, and tableware and decorative ceramics are generally still made this way.

Some ceramic products are regarded as fine art, while others are regarded as decorative, or as artifacts in archaeology. They may be made by one individual or in a factory where a group of people design, make and decorate the work. There is a long history of ceramic art in almost all developed cultures, and often, ceramic objects are all the artistic evidence left from vanished cultures. Cultures especially noted for ceramics include the Chinese, Greek, Persian, Mayan, Japanese, and Korean cultures, as well as the modern Western cultures.

Elements of ceramic art are the shape of the object, its decoration by painting, carving and other methods, and the glazing found on most ceramics.

Art has many different purposes: religious, political, community, communication, self expression, entertainment and/or enjoyment. Art is not just a pretty picture on the wall; it is everywhere. We see art when we go shopping and pick out certain clothing items based on its style; we see art when we pick out what we are going to wear for the day and choose how we want to style our hair; we see art when we listen to music; we see art when we are playing a video game; we see art when we go to the food store and choose what kind of cereal we want based on the cool design on the box; we see art when we pass by a billboard with a model on it; we see art, we see art, we see art! It is important to study and learn about art because it helps us understand different cultures, time periods, artistic styles and helps us to better appreciate artists. When we study art, we are not only learning about the past as well as present artists, but we are also learning about who we are as artists. Art is a way for us to express ourselves, and there is no right or wrong answer in art.

**WELCOME TO CERAMICS!**

**Peekskill Middle School**

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

**Citizenship (10%)**

Citizenship is about how you act as an individual in society (or at PKMS). Some examples of citizenship:

* Helping your classmate
* Taking yourself seriously
* Listening to your teachers
* Acting responsibly
* Being respectful

By CHOOSING to have good citizenship=10 pts

**Class Work/Class Participation (30%)**

Attendance=6pts

Punctuality=6pts

Notes/Sketches=6pts 30 pts

Folder=6pts

Behavior=6pts

\*If you have 6 or more unexcused absences per quarter you will automatically lose 6 pts on your attendance grade!

\*If you are late without a pass 6 or more times per quarter, you will automatically lose 6 pts on your participation grade!

**\*Extra Credit**

Bring in one object per quarter (e.g., jewelry, gift, poster, souvenir from vacation) and write up to 5 complete sentences about the object and why you consider it art. You will earn 1 point for each complete sentence you write (max=5 pts)

complete sentence: I think my grandmother’s ring is a work of art because it has many different beautiful designs and patterns in it.

incomplete sentence: Cuz its cool!

**Grade Distribution**

Projects 60%

Class Work/Class Participation 30% 100 %

Citizenship 10%

**Projects (60%)**

Projects take up most of the class time in ceramics. Due to the nature of clay, it is extremely important that you are working on your project during class time and keep up with the clay schedule. Otherwise, your project may dry up before you are done, or you may not complete the assignment by its due date!