

**Prairie Elementary School
 Waunakee, Wisconsin
 Mary Wright, Art Teacher
 Art in the Garden Projects**

Stage 1 - Desired Outcome

Established Goals: **G**

Students at Prairie Elementary School will create ceramic “totem pole” pieces with recycled birdhouses on top. Each student will create a section of the ceramic pole and each will contribute to decorating the birdhouses.

Students at Prairie will also create mosaic step / sitting stones throughout the garden using cement, ceramic pieces, glass beads, and other found objects.

If time and supplies allow, students at Prairie may also create beaded “wind chimes” to hang from the trees and other structures throughout the garden.

My goals for these projects is for students to have the experience of working with multiple art materials, collaborating with their classmates, seeing artwork as something to be shared (not always individually owned), and learning that creating artwork (especially large, outdoor installations) takes a lot of planning and group effort to create. I want them to realize that their work is important to the school and the community.

<p>Understandings:</p> <p><i>Students will understand that...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students at Prairie Elementary will explore multiple materials and art concepts. They will understand the meaning of “multi-media” and “found object” art. -They will have a good understanding of three-dimensional artwork and how to create it. -They will learn that designing art pieces that will withstand outdoor conditions takes additional planning and special supplies. -They will learn the pros and cons of working as a group on an art piece, including the need for compromise and collaboration. -Ideally, the most important concept students will learn is that art is more than they once thought. Art can be made in many ways and in many places, and they are artists! 	U	<p>Essential Questions: Q</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Students and I had many discussions throughout the process of planning and creating our art pieces. They also knew that other professionals were involved in trying to make the right decisions about technical, structures aspects of our art pieces. -Students and I talked about form, color, materials, etc. -We also had to talk about set-backs that were caused by the construction going on at our school. -Students were able to see the QUANTITY of artwork we were dealing with as the clay pieces filled all the counter space of the art room. -Students were able to understand and appreciate the significance of all students being represented in the art pieces we were making. 	
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<i>Students will know . . .</i>	K	<i>Students will be able to</i>	S
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-Students will understand the primary differences between acrylic paint (which we will be using), watercolor, tempera, and glazes.

-Students will learn how to make educated color choices using the color wheel and what they've learned about warm / cool colors, complementary colors, primary colors, secondary colors, etc.

-Students will learn about mosaics, abstract design, and functional artwork in making the large step stones for the garden.

Stage 2 - Assessment Evidence

Performance Tasks:

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- Students will learn by doing. Students will work independently and in small groups to make decisions and problem-solve.
- As their teacher, I will supervise, guide, and instruct as needed.
- Each classroom will have discussions regarding the plans and progress of the projects we are working on. We will review and revise, together, as necessary.
- Ultimately, they will demonstrate an understanding by creating a finished products as planned.

Other Evidence:

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- Students will visit the garden space and discuss the progress.
- Students will draw in their sketchbooks, which may include writing, regarding the Garden at Prairie.
- Some more formal assessments will be given to the older students to confirm their understanding of the basic art skills and concepts we've learned through the process.

Stage 3 - Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

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-Because these projects were new and exciting to all of us, we worked through issues, together. Working with a variety of art supplies, especially clay, is motivating to most students. The Garden at Prairie is a new and intriguing place for students, so knowing their work would be part of it, was very exciting to them. Holding students' interest in the art room is not a problem.

-I showed students examples of art pieces to further motivate them and show them where our projects were headed. We looked at many examples, online, to encourage variety and make connections to work from multiple sources (and cultures). We discussed how our pieces were both decorative and functional, and consequently, the additional consideration needed.

-Together, we needed to rethink and revise many things for our Art in the Garden projects! As an artists, I share many frustrating experiences with students from my own life. I allow students to feel frustration, anger, disappointment as part of the artistic / human experience- If you feel overwhelmed, frustrated, nervous, etc, congratulations! That's how all artists feel, sometimes! Then, I guide them in many ways, but encourage them

to solve their own problems. Starting over is not a bad thing. It's a normal thing. Step away. Come back later. Get some advice from a friend.

-The projects we've worked on accommodate all of the students in the building, including multiple ages, multiple skill-level, etc. Everyone will have the opportunity to participate and feel accomplished through this process and by the success of the products.

-The art room schedule is full and time in the art room for each class is limited. Staying on-task and productive is important. Setting clear time frames and dead lines is essential, but we also learned that it's also important to be flexible. We needed to learn this when the construction at our school began. Many plans were changed or put on hold, including those for the Art in the Garden projects. Some things are out of our individual control, which is another good life lesson for all of us.

-Overall, the Art in the Garden projects have been challenging and exciting. I am thankful for the encourage and support from administration, teachers, custodians, parents, and others in the community. Once construction is complete at our school, it will be great to see student artwork finally displayed and enjoyed by classroom, families, animals and other visitors to the Garden at Prairie.