Dear Parents~  
  
Your child is going to have a great year in the art room using their creativity and learning about famous artists and works of art!  We will experiment with paint, clay, paper, fabric, various drawing tools like crayons, markers, oil pastels and more!  Your child will be creating things that you will probably want to save for a long time.  At some point during the school year we will make a portfolio to keep all of your child's artwork.  The portfolio is an extra large folder that will hold various sizes of artwork. We will keep this folder in school until after our annual art show in May.  If you visit the art show you may take your child's portfolio home at that time.  It is a good idea to do so as it is very cumbersome and your child may have difficulty carrying it.  Occasionally, I will let the students take something home but I want to make sure that I have a nice selection of artwork to choose from to display in the art show.  
  
Just as a reminder, please do not send your child to school on art day with their best outfit on, we often get quite messy in the art room!  We do wear smocks most times but they don't cover the whole body.  I apologize in advance if your child comes home with stained clothes. If you do happen to find a stain, spray it with stain remover and wash the item in cold water.    
  
Occasionally I may be asking your child to bring something in from home to use for a project.  I will give them a note that will be sent home in their Tiger Folder.  
  
My philosophy for teaching art is process oriented, meaning sometimes the end product is not always the most important part of the lesson.  The steps that a child must go through to create a work of art are skills that students can utilize in many subjects, if not all of them.  Your child will be thinking critically about art and artists, brainstorming, thinking creatively, using their imagination, using trial and error, refining their fine motor skills and expressing themselves visually. We live in a visual world and visual literacy is an important component of my curriculum.  Visual literacy is also a 21st Century Learning Skill that all students are expected to achieve before leaving high school.   
  
I try my best to conduct my class so that all students feel a sense of pride when they are finished with their work, whether they are a budding Picasso or have talents that lie in other areas. If you are curious about what we will be doing this year, please explore my website.

If you wish to have any of your child's artwork featured in an on line art gallery, please send their artwork back to school with a note attached

Check out "Artsonia" for more information. Feel free to email me at tbrown@scasd.us  if you have any questions.  I'm looking forward to a great year!  
  
Sincerely,  
Tia Brown