

WPSAF SCHOOLS EXHIBIT

TIPS FROM OUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GOOD TIPS FROM OUR 2023 WPSAF ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Kym Moreland-Garnett (KMG), Trinity Prep; Christy Garton (CG), OCPS Program Specialist; Chad Allman, Lake Nona HS, Ellen Kramer (EK), Wedgefield K8

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BOOKMARK: www.wpsaf.org/schools

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COLLECTING FESTIVAL-QUALITY ARTWORK

Start collecting art-festival quality artwork as you see it. I have a folder of works that I think are potential candidates for shows that I add to throughout the year. CG

I collect work in a designated folder all year--the best of every grade level from every project starting on the first day! Two weeks prior to a show, I pull everything and review for needed adjustment: Is it signed? Does it need a little cleaning up? Can it use a little more effort or detail? I pull students aside before, after, or during class and ask them to make any necessary adjustments to bring a good work to the superior level. I correct all these issues before making my final selections and matting the work. EK

School art shows are wonderful and a great way to get your school community involved in showcasing the hard work, growth, and talents of every student along with recognizing your skills and knowledge as their teacher. However, the WPSAF and other public venues is the place to where the best of the best shine! These venues are for works that are exemplary and should spotlight only those works that stand out from the rest. EK

When putting your display together, keep in mind that just like craftsmanship counts for our students, it counts for us. Our displays should be neat, organized, and appealing in order to let the work shine without the distracting confusion of clutter. EK

Show your school spirit and help parents easily locate their child's work by creating a sign identifying your school clearly. Remember, there are hundreds of schools participating and location of one specific school can be tricky, so make your sign stand out! Some school districts provide district signage that they like to be included in your display as well. EK

MAT & WRAP

ALWAYS acetate or WRAP the work - it gets dirty and can get ruined. KMG

Dick Blick sells pre-cut, Mat Frames in different sizes. These are good quality but won't break the budget. I ordered a set of 60 assorted sizes for \$17.99 and then bought three more packs of 12 size 11½" x 16½" with an opening of 9" x 12" (My preferred size because our paper comes standard 9 x 12.) for \$7.34 each. They can be reused by using a new label over the old one. I have had mine for years and are still in great shape! Blick has choices of white, black, and assorted primary colors. <https://www.dickblick.com/products/pre-cut-mat-frames/> EK

I also buy acetate "sleeves" for my artwork. I find this easier than trying to wrap the work since all you have to do is slide the work inside a pre-cut bag. They come in various sizes and are reusable. Hint: I don't use the attached sealing strip but just tape mine with removable tape so I can pull it off and use them again. Also, if they are too large, just fold to the right size then tape!

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0049UZAV6/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&th=1 EK

Michael's sells scrap mat in different colors, if that is what you are looking for. KMG

Teach your students how to mat their artwork. My art club helps me mat everything. CG

When I am working on a project, I pre-cut the mats to fit the piece; part of the grade is matting it. When I have a show coming up, all I have to do is choose the ones I want. Plus, I also have lots to choose from to hang around the school - principals love that! KMG

Art Systems of Florida is one of our sponsors. WPSAF

LAYOUT & SETUP

Remember, The Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival is an outdoor show under the cover of tents. Prepare work accordingly. Glue stick, spray glue, duct tape, masking tape, or scotch tape will not hold up to moisture and dampness. WPSAF

Lay out the art work ahead of time to be able to plan your space. I lay them out at home and photograph them. CG

Mount the work up at least 5 inches from the grass floor should it rain. WPSAF

If you are using foam boards or other materials that can absorb water for your presentation, wrap the bottoms with duct tape to prevent moisture from the ground soaking your boards. EK

You need at least 32- 35 pieces depending on the size of the art work to fill the space. Always have more than you need. Better safe than sorry. CG

Velcro, binder clips, and drapery hooks are a good way to hang your work. I put Velcro on the mats and attach them to the backing when I am setting up for the show. CG

These hooks are great for hanging work that is matted and acetated. 50 clips for \$8.97

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01M0113QL/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_search_asin_title?ie=UTF8&psc=1 EK

For many years, I set up my display in my classroom so that all I had to do when I got there was clamp it to the panels. I used four pieces of black foam core. When used horizontally, two boards fit one panel exactly. After matting and wrapping the work with acetate, I first lay the pieces out so that I can fit as many as possible and then hot glue them to the foam core. I have heavy-duty clamps from a hardware store to clamp the boards into place on the panels. It is easy to remove and I have been able to have a parent set up or take down for me in a pinch. KMG

Drapery hooks go right into the back of the foam core that I have behind the mat. KMG

Bring a dolly or flatbed cart to move artwork from unloading area to exhibit space; also for pickup. CA

Make a list of student names/artwork to check at take-down. CA

HELP – You want it!

When I taught elementary school, I had a couple of mom volunteers who would help me mount work onto colored or black construction paper when mat board was not in my budget. KMG

If you think no one will help, ask anyway - you have to ask!! :) Don't get overwhelmed. KMG

Bring help to unload and watch your artwork while you move your car to a street parking space before setting up your exhibit; do the reverse for Sunday's pick up. KMG (CA & CG agree a helper is important!)

PROMOTE

I like knowing beforehand which pieces are going to the show so that I can notify all parents. I also send a list to the person in charge of our website and the principal so they are aware of our participation in this event. KMG

Spread the word to your parents and friends to stop by and see your booth - if something has fallen - ask them to fix it or contact you. KMG

Parents and students are very excited about this accomplishment so consider letting them know what day and time you will be attending the festival so they can meet you there and take photos. EK

My school has a social page. As art events approach throughout the year, we post information about the events. Not only are we able to reach out to parents and teachers, but we are able to promote the event to friends in the community as well. CG

In the school newsletter, we publish all upcoming events so parents and teachers can plan to come to the events. CG

*In addition to social media posts and staff emails, I create a flyer with all times, dates, and **a map** to send home with students whose work will be on display. I always print extras in case there are last minute additions. EK*

Art shows are a big deal at my school. We talk about all the events in my classes to get students excited about showing their work. I have students help me make the final choices for the show. Not only do they learn how to recognize exemplary work, but are able to choose pieces that they feel would make their school community proud! CG

STUDENTS

I give extra credit to students for going to the show and talking to an artist (Give them a list of possible questions to ask beforehand). Suggest they take a selfie with an artist. Sometimes it is difficult because of timing - many times the show overlaps spring breaks. KMG

NETWORK

Meet an art teacher friend one morning and peruse the show together - or go solo. Take tons of pictures of student work at all grade levels. You'll get lots of ideas for projects! KMG

Talk to the other teachers! Tell them you like a piece - get a dialog going - you may learn something :-) KMG

Set aside time during of the show for a meet and greet with your parents. CG

VOLUNTEER

We offer several opportunities for students (13 yrs. and up), parents and teachers to volunteer during the Festival. Please go online to <https://www.wpsaf.org/support/volunteer/index>. WPSAF

SUPPLIES for your art show tool box

- Velcro
- Scissors
- Shipping labels
- Black sharpies; pencils; eraser
- Cleaner and paper towels
- OCPS sign, if applicable; blank artwork labels
- Black duct tape; masking tape; packing tape
- Clamps, small binder clips, 2" spring clamps
- Drapery hooks (NO paper clips, tacks, nails)
- Heavy duty glue should a 3D piece break
- Camera to document setup
- Dolly or flatbed cart

3D SUGGESTIONS from Chad Allman

- *Pedestal boxes to display 3D art that fit inside of each other. 14", 13", 12", etc. Easy to store and to carry artwork in them on the way to the show.*
- *Newspaper for packing fragile artwork*
- *Dolly or flatbed cart*
- *Cleaner and paper towels*
- *Blank artwork labels in case you forget a student*
- *Large cover/white table cloth to cover large wooden fold-up tables*
- *Unload artwork next to curb and have a helper move work to tent while you park*
- *Take pictures after you set up*
- *Save a list of student names/artwork to check when you take down*

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