



JOIN US

be an artist!

Art teaches many things. When you make art, you develop creativity, boost your confidence, enhance problem-solving skills, foster emotional well-being, improve fine motor skills, and build social connections.

Let's make art! Everyone is welcome to join the ART CLUB. Mrs. Wallace will share handouts and inspiration and you can follow along, practicing and learning techniques in your sketchbook.

We will be kicking things off in September, so keep your eyes on the Weekend Monarch newsletter for details!

WHAT IS THE Art Club?

This is a self-paced, at-home activity/club designed to encourage kids to build a creative practice. They will get ideas and inspiration, learn art techniques, and develop a daily practice to build their artistic skills and creative thinking that they can carry on throughout their life.

The content is suitable for elementary-aged kids. Younger kids may need a little guidance - this is a perfect opportunity for parent/child bonding!

Frequently Asked Questions

What does "at-home, self-paced" mean?

This means the activities are done at home, at your convenience and leisure. Students are encouraged to bring their art supplies kit to school if they want to do art in the mornings or at recess, though!

Do I need all the supplies on the list?

No. Get the basics - paper and mark-making tools. Most of the projects will just involve drawing in a sketchbook. Mrs. Wallace will provide information for those students who want to learn how to use their watercolors, but watercolors are not a requirement.

Can my other kids who don't go to Mails join in?

Yes! The handouts will be provided online so you can download copies for your other kids, if you want.

What age level is this for?

The content (lessons, handouts, etc.) is geared for students 2nd grade and up, since some reading is required, and ability to follow along is necessary. But, kids preschool and up can participate with some adult guidance.

How much will parents need to be involved?

Kids should be able to do most activities on their own - drawing and learning different ideas. Parents may need to help their kids learn how to get ready for painting with watercolors (parent sets up the table, gives the kid a play shirt to wear, etc.). If your kid can't handle scissors and glue (or even markers) by themselves, don't give them those supplies to use. They can earn more by showing they are responsible.

How will art club handouts be given out?

Mrs. Wallace will have Art Club handouts in the library for students each week. When they take a handout, they should keep it for future reference. Additional copies will be provided online for students to print at home.

Art Club

AN AT-HOME, SELF-PACED GUIDED CREATIVE PRACTICE FOR KIDS



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SUPPLIES

- Sketchbook* – for drawing and making art in
- Your choice – one or all: colored pencils, crayons or markers, other mark-making/drawing tools
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Pencil and sharpener (or mechanical pencil)
- Eraser
- IMPORTANT – a zippered pouch or bag to put all the supplies in. I don't recommend a box as they are more bulky and might pop open in a backpack. Something clear is fun – look at makeup bags. It can even be a ziploc bag.

Optional supplies – these are supplies that you can later add to your art kit as you grow and develop your practice. Some of these can be a little pricey – feel free to ask me about any of them. No need to purchase everything at the same time...add to your collection little by little!

- Watercolor paints and brush (your choice, but sets that are not labeled washable will have better pigments. Crayola or Prang are good – see notes)
- Watercolor pencils
- Waterbrush* (barrel holds water so you don't need a cup of water for watercolors)
- Watercolor paper pad (look for the heavier 140 lb. paper)
- Sharpies – fine and ultra-fine (thin line)
- Stabilo Woody 3 in 1 Watersoluble Crayons

NOTES

Sketchbook – this can be any type of book with pages to write/draw in. Composition books, spiral sketch books, hardbound, etc. Walmart has a nice selection – look for "mixed media" if you want to be able to use watercolor in it. You can even staple blank papers together to make your own sketchbook.

Watercolors – Try to find a set with white in it, and I don't recommend either the cheap sets (the colors will be very chalky or too light) or the washable kind (again, the colors will not be as vibrant and pigmented). A set of 8 or 16? Go with the 16. And if you are getting watercolors, get some watercolor paper.

*My favorite art supply for watercolor is a waterbrush (Pentel is a good brand that won't leak.) Makes using watercolors totally portable.

ACTIVITIES & PROJECT LINKS

Art Club is open to new students all year around. Jump in anytime! This is the guide for making art shown below. Get ideas here - you don't have to do it exactly this way! Use your own imagination to make it better. If there are links to additional resources, they are at the bottom of the page. HAVE FUN AND CREATE EVERY DAY!



CIRCLE COLLECTION

Your sketchbook will soon become a collection of your art. Let's create a collection of circles on one of the pages in your sketchbook. If circles are hard to do, feel free to do squares or rectangles or even triangles instead!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- A variety of papers found around your house: junk mail postcards, envelopes, catalogs, old greeting cards, scrapbook paper, magazines, old maps, etc.
- Scissors and Glue
- Something circular you can use to trace a circle, like a cup or jar lid (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your supplies
- Look at the different kinds of paper you found and cut out circles from the papers. Your circles do not have to be perfect - you can freehand draw them, or use the cup/lid to trace the circle
- Glue them down in your sketchbook, creating an organized grid, or glue them down randomly on your paper, filling in as much space as possible.

****You can also do this activity by drawing circles in your sketchbook and filling each one with a pattern or design using the art supplies you have.**

IDEAS

- Look specifically for patterns or pictures that you want to feature in the circle you cut out - especially if you have magazines or catalogs
- You can use these collections as a reference for pictures, ideas and patterns in your sketchbook
- To make your page neat, apply glue all the way to the edges of your circle - use a scratch piece of paper to protect your table surface from getting glue all over it

GO BIG

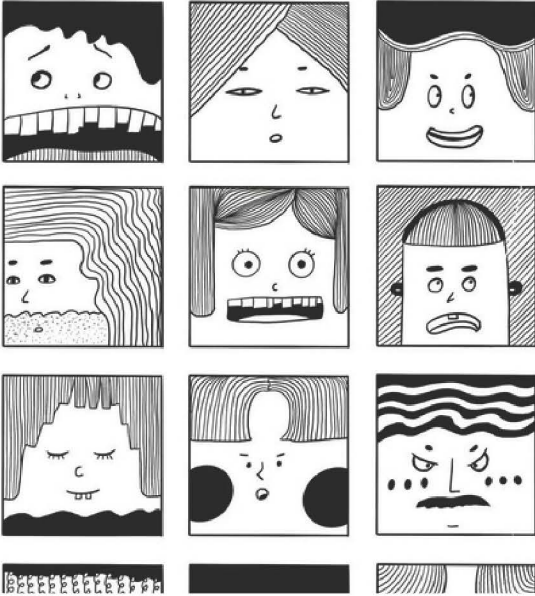
Go big by doing more - here is an idea for you

- Make your own painted/designed papers to cut your circles out from - use paint or markers or whatever you want

**PRACTICE IN YOUR
SKETCHBOOK EVERY
DAY.**

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**SQUARE HEADS**

We played around with circles, now we are going to explore drawing within the confines of a square. Remember, creativity and imagination is the name of the game. Inspiration and ideas are all around you.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Your sketchbook or pieces of paper
- Something to write/draw with: markers, pen, pencils, etc.
- Cardboard to cut out a square template, about 2-3 inches
- YOUR IMAGINATION

INSTRUCTIONS

- On your paper/sketchbook page, draw squares all over your paper, in a grid. You can fill your paper with squares, lining them up in rows until your paper is filled. One side of the square should be about the length of your pointer finger.
- You can make a square template out of a piece of cardboard or heavy paper and use that to help you draw your squares by placing the square on your paper, then tracing around it.

IDEAS

- Look around you for ideas - the face can have eyes shaped like something you see in the room
- Hair can be all kinds of styles - use these ideas to get you started if you can't think of any
 - Bacon, Leaf, Shoe, Spaghetti, Flower
- Look at the examples - try making some that look exactly the same
- Draw some upside down or sideways!
- Make some that resemble someone you know
- How many pages of squareheads can you draw?
- Go monochromatic - pick one color (say, only blues) and make a whole page of blue heads

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

PRACTICE IN YOUR SKETCHBOOK EVERY DAY. GO BACK TO ACTIVITIES YOU HAVE DONE AND EXPLORE OTHER WAYS TO DO THEM.

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**NOTE ABOUT SUPPLIES**

Watercolor paper is heavier/stiffer than regular paper and is made to let the water sit on top of the paper so the watercolors mix and play together. It comes in different weights - 90lb or 140lb. If you don't have any watercolor paper, go ahead and try this with regular paper (it will not have the same results, but it will still be fun!)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Get your brush wet and gently mix it in the color of your choice in your watercolor paint pan - if needed, dip the tip of the brush in the water to add more water to make the color "juicier"
- Paint shapes (blobs, circles, rounded rectangles, squares, etc.) all over your paper, either neatly or randomly
- Let the paint dry completely (don't make your blobs too wet or they will take a long time to dry)
- Using a pencil or pen, or thin marker, draw things on the painted areas - explore with different mark-making tools
- Make sure you 'go outside' the area of the shape (see example)
- Fill in all your shapes - keep working, adding in details!
- Try different kinds of drawings, or work in a series of the same type of thing, like the flowers in the example

WATERCOLOR + DOODLES

Mixing two different types of art supplies is a fun way to explore art. Here we will paint blobs and shapes, then once it's dry, we will add simple line drawings on top.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Watercolor paints and brush/es
- Cup of water to rinse your brush
- Paper towel, folded to blot your brush
- Watercolor paper (140lb or 90lb) - mixed media paper can be used.