Maple Hills Kiln Information

We are lucky to have access to an automated kiln that gives our students the opportunity to learn ceramics and hot glass art – something not all schools are able to provide! We will do our best to provide you with instruction, assistance and a scheduling system.

Materials:

Clay – the PTA will provide one box of clay/classroom. The cost of this does NOT come out of your classroom budget of $100. Yea! Clay will be stored in the Kindergarten bathroom. There is now a drying rack in there for short term storage.

Glaze – green cabinet in Kindergarten bathroom, with extras on top of the cabinet. If we are low on a particular color, please contact Amy. Please use provided palettes (and adults only pour glaze) to limit waste. Glaze is expensive. Please, please, please wash your brushes and palettes when finished. Kids love helping clean up.

Tools – yellow cabinet in Kindergarten bathroom has cutters, patterns, etc. Slab roller is also in the bathroom. Ask if you need a slab rolling demo!

Glass – everyone is welcome to do fused glass if you would like, but because glass is extremely expensive, you must purchase your own from your classroom budget. Scrap glass and cutting tools are in the Kindergarten bathroom. If you are not comfortable with glass cutting tools, please ask and we will be happy to show you! IMPORTANT: when purchasing glass it absolutely must be COE 96 glass. Our kiln programs are set for COE 96 and if any COE 90 glass (there is no visible difference between the two) gets mixed into our glass supplies, the entire lot would have to be thrown out as mixing coefficients will cause different expansions and the kids’ beautiful projects will spontaneously break over time.

Purchasing – NW Art Glass in Redmond is excellent. They will direct you to the correct glass. Tell them you are with Maple Hills Elementary and they will look up our account and give you a 10% discount. I also like Delphi glass online, but shipping is generally prohibitive for a small order. Feel free to email the group if you’d like to order and split shipping.

Kiln:

Kiln user forms – you must be trained on the kiln and then a form must be signed before you are allowed to use the kiln. This is an ISD requirement. Please see Amy if you have questions.

Scheduling – this is an Auction year which means kiln scheduling will be a hot topic. 😊 You MUST have an online reservation to use the kiln. Your password to access this will be sent once you have completed kiln training (with Amy) and signed the ISD agreement. Instructions for scheduling will be sent with your link. The calendar is easy to use and app friendly, so I recommend bookmarking it on your phone so you have easy access. If you need to change your reservation, *please do not forget to cancel your old reservation so someone else can use it.*

Programming – the kiln programs are pre-set and docents are not allowed to change the programs as this could cause a lot of problems for the next docent. If you need something special, please talk to Amy or Heather.

Sign In – it is very important that you remember to sign in (wall outside the kiln room) when you are using the kiln. If there are any technical issues or unloading questions the staff and fellow docents know who to contact. New this year – please also include Time you started your run. This gives the person scheduled the following day a better idea as to when it will be available for them to load. Many of us do not live close to the school so this is helpful.

Safety – please turn on the fan in the kiln room during a run and put the chain across the door to prevent kids from entering. Unfortunately, the door can not be closed during a run as the room will get too hot and the kiln will shut itself off.

Personal Use – as per ISD rules, the kiln is not to be used for personal use. No one is allowed to run the kiln solely for a non-classroom (samples okay within reason) purpose.

Questions: Contact Amy Archer at nomsom@yahoo.com or 406.850.3693.