

Enrichment Program at PS 8: Marquis Studios



Marquis Studios is an Arts-In-Education organization founded in 1977.

Marquis has worked closely with PS 8 for a number of years, with students from Kindergarten to 5th grade.

Kindergarten - Circus Arts

Students learn techniques of clowning and physical comedy as well as study the significance of circus in many cultures. This program promotes physical education, gross motor skills and improved hand/eye coordination. Skills learned include juggling, feather balancing, tumbling, comedy, improvisation. Students learn the different types of clown character (Auguste, boss clown, sad clown, silly clown) and compare and contrast these styles as they develop their individual clown characters. The program usually ends with a shared performance.

1st Grade - Puppetry

Each child creates original puppets to use in an original performance - either paper mache hand puppets or "toy theaters" that use two-dimensional puppets cut out of card stock. Students learn how to create a puppet that clearly shows who the character is through making costumes, props and creating faces which convey the puppet's basic emotional state. Students learn about different types of puppets, and develop the various skills of the puppetry art: designing, sculpture, painting, collage, etc. Script creation and



theater skills are incorporated into the project, as students produce a finished project suitable for show.

2nd Grade: Architecture of the Neighborhood

Students explore the history and social fabric of their neighborhood through the eyes of an architect. They learn how to judge a building's age based on its architectural style and features, and study the meaning of the built environment to those who live in it, either through model building or drawing reproduce neighborhood features. Skills taught may include drawing to scale, scale model building, drawing buildings as pictures (rendering) and drawing buildings to scale (elevation).

3rd Grade: Musical Instrument Building

This course teaches an appreciation of the variety of music produced by indigenous cultures around the world, and builds student skills of musicality and instrument construction. Using found objects and recycled materials, students construct their own instruments and then play them as an ensemble. Students explore the physics of sound as well as the vibratory qualities of different materials. The class looks at different examples of folk instruments from around the world, and listens to the complex music that even seemingly simple instruments can produce.

4th & 5th Grade: Bookmaking

Students are exposed to the art of book making, exploring the ways in which images and text can be presented in a bound form, and examine the role of book-making through history and across cultures. Books are created in which pages, covers and bindings come together in both traditional and unexpected ways. Creating forms such as a codex, accordion and pop-up book, young artists use skills such as folding, cutting, measuring, aligning and pasting to create personalized artist volumes. Students develop book content and learn how arrangement and layout affects the visual communication of their subject matter.

About Marquis Studios

Marquis Studios has provided a variety of arts-in-education services to hundreds of New York City public schools and public institutions since 1977. They seek to foster a greater partnership between teaching artists and classroom teachers by providing arts programs as a supplement to traditional classroom teaching techniques. A team of 30 artists provides residencies, staff development and parent/child workshops in a range of visual and performing arts disciplines, which stress development of higher-order thinking skills (self-evaluation, application of learned skills, problem-solving and critical thinking). For more information about Marquis Studios, visit their website: www.marquisstudios.org.