Dear Newton D. Baker Families,

Newton D. Baker School of Arts is an integrated Arts School. Our school’s mission is to infuse the Arts across learning in all core subject areas, preparing students with 21st Century Learning Skills. All of us at Newton D. Baker School of Arts believe in the value and impact the arts have on our students’ education. As a Visual Arts teacher, I feel visual art is an important part of every child’s growth. Whether your child is talented or not, I will endeavor to teach them concepts and skills which will last a lifetime; being able to enjoy a work of art, learning to appreciate the natural and man-made world around them, and to understand how art impacts their everyday lives.

At Newton D. Baker School of Arts we integrate the arts with academic subjects. The students create art with a variety of materials; learn about selected artists and historical styles; develop critical inquiry techniques to describe, analyze, interpret, and judge artworks; and identify the value of art to oneself and society.

Student work is on display throughout the school, such as the two murals on the outside of the school building, the mural in 232B, and several locker murals. Artwork is also on display in the hallways and outside the art room, room 115.

**Visual Art Expectations & Grades:**

Art is taught using the Cleveland Metropolitan School District Visual Art Scope & Sequence and Ohio Department of Education Fine Arts Standards. The curriculum includes…

***Personal Choice and Vision:*** *Students construct and solve problems of personal relevance and interest when expressing themselves through visual art.*

***Critical and Creative Thinking****: Students combine and apply artistic and reasoning skills to imagine, create, realize and refine artworks in conventional and innovative ways.*

***Authentic Application and Collaboration:*** *Students work individually and in groups to focus ideas and create artworks that address genuine local and global community needs.*

***Literacy:*** *As consumers, critics and creators, students evaluate and understand artworks and other texts produced in the media forms of the day.*

Students receive a grade that reflects their progress in achieving these art standards and grade level indicators. Art grades are based on the quality of the work, following directions, written work, class participation, and the completion of assignments. Art grades are based on the individual and the effort put forth. Students earn their grades in visual art. Appropriate attitudes and behavior reflect a respect for self, adults, and each other, following art rules (i.e. working quietly, staying in assigned area, listening, following directions, and staying on task). Playing and inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated in the art room. The consequences for inappropriate behavior may include seat moved, time-out, writing reflection, and suspension from class. You will be contacted to help solve any problems, should they arise.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

I look forward to an outstanding year!

Sincerely,

Sherri Pittard, Visual Art Teacher