Your Art Supplies:

*How to Make Them Last*

The following are tips for teaching your students how to treat their art supplies with care. With TLC, some of your art supplies can last for YEARS!

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| **Type of Art Material** | **Tips to Lengthen the Life Span of That Material** |
| Paintbrushes | The longevity of your painting supplies starts with the subject of brush care. A brush with a preserved shape is easier for your students to direct and use, which leads to better outcomes.   * Students should only apply paints to the **tip** of the brush. * When applying paint to a surface, the students should gently **“pet”** that surface with the end of the brush (where the paint is). * Students should **“swish like a fish”** in their water container to remove their current paint color before moving on to another.   The life span of your paintbrushes also depends on how they are cleaned after an art project. If cleaned or stored in the wrong way, the bristles will become hard or bent and will be difficult to use in the future.   * When being washed, I recommend using a bit of brush soap to help get any extra paint out of your brush. This soap conditions the brush as well and keeps it in good shape. * Use your fingers to make sure that the water flows all throughout the bristles to remove all of the paint. If any paint is left behind (especially at the base), the brush will harden and be difficult/impossible to use. *Take extra care with your washing when you are using materials like Acrylic Paints (Permament), Water/Glue Mixtures, Mod Podge, and Paper Mache.* * Store brushes to dry in a cylindrical container with the brush side pointing up and out of the container. |
| Watercolor Paints | Since watercolors are often one of your most used materials in the classroom, it is essential that you teach your students how to treat them with care.   * The amount of water that you want to have on your brush depends on the technique that you are trying to apply. For darker colors, students just need enough water on their brush to lift color off of the paint cake. For lighter colors, students will need a little more water. They can also put water on the paper first for a wet-on-wet technique. * Before moving to a new color, brushes need to be completely cleaned off in the water and dabbed on the sponge. This keeps the colors from getting mixed with their neighbors. * Student should have sponges so that they can limit the amount of water that makes it onto their watercolor paints. * All paint trays on the watercolor sets should be cleaned and dried before the sets are closed. The Pelikan paint sets can also be stacked in an open position so that they can dry in a stack before being closed. |
| Colored Pencils (Regular and Watercolor) | * Do not have the students sharpen colored pencils in your electric pencil sharpener. They not only eat up a lot of the pencil that could have been used, but the waxy texture of the lead in the colored pencil can clog your sharpener. * Please have the students use hand held sharpeners to sharpen those pencils. |
| Tempera Paints | It is easy to use your tempera paints up quickly. By teaching your students to limit themselves, you can make your paints last a long time.   * **Paint Trays**: Especially when students are learning how to mix colors, the 10-well plastic paint trays are a perfect way to conserve your paints. We have gallon jugs of acrylic paints with pumps that make it easy for you to put one pump of each color into the tray. There are extra spaces for your students to mix colors as well as a large space in the middle. Since we have the pump bottles, it is easy to add more paint later if the students need it. This cuts down on waste. *(Hot tip: Have sponges available at your sink so that the students can wash off their own trays!)* * **Brushes**: Reminding your students about the proper usage of brushes will cut down on paint waste as well. If they are only applying paint to the tip of the brush and gently “petting” the tray when they are mixing colors, they won’t cover the entire brush, handle, and who knows what else with paint that is eventually going to be washed off and wasted. |
| Acrylic Paints | Use Paint Trays and Brushes in the same way as the Tempera Paints.   * Acrylic Paint is **permanent** paint. Once it dries, it is impossible to remove from brushes and clothing (I have learned this the hard way). Therefore, make sure that you remind students of this fact before using the paints. * Since acrylic paint dries rather quickly, students will want to have a container of water available to mix with the paint as it starts to dry and becomes “sticky.” They will need to wash off their brushes frequently to keep the paint from drying into them permanently. |
| Chalk Pastels | Do not use these over a carpeted area. If smashed into the carpet and then vacuumed, you may have a chance of saving the carpet. If smashed into the carpet and then scrubbed by a child with a wet paper towel, then carpet cleaner, then Borax (even the 100 mule team could not save this), and then steam cleaned over summer, your result will be a HUGE purple spot that is still on the carpet to this day. ☹   * When using chalk pastels, encourage your students to be gentle with them, as they break easily. * Students should pinch the pastel between their thumb and pointer finger on their dominant hand and move it back and forth in same direction to apply color to the paper. * Chalk Pastels easily come off smooth, non-carpeted surfaces with Clorox Wipes. * When finished with a chalk pastel creation, lightly spray the surface with a Fixative/Fixatif (not when students are present) /Hairspray to preserve their brightness and keep them in place. Chalk pastels can smudge easily. * Some chalk lessons require dipping chalk into water. This will damage the chalk so use old chalk. |
| Oil Pastels | Please do not store your Oil Pastels in an area that can get too warm. They will “sweat” or can melt, which makes them difficult to use in the future.  Just like chalk pastels, Oil Pastels are not very forgiving and will not come out of carpet easily.   * When using oil pastels, encourage your students to be gentle with them, as they break easily. * Students should pinch the pastel between their thumb and pointer finger on their dominant hand and move it back and forth in same direction to apply color to the paper. * Oil Pastels easily come off smooth, non-carpeted surfaces with Clorox Wipes. |

Recommended Supplies to

Have in Every Classroom:

*(The pricier brands are listed on top. Usually, the better the quality, the better the outcome.)*

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| **Type of Supply** | **Recommended Brand(s)** | **Vendor** |
| Watercolor Paints | Pelikan  DO NOT USE Crayola or RoseArt | Dick Blick |
| Colored Pencils | Prismacolor  Crayola | Dick Blick  Office Depot |
| Oil Pastels | Large – Sketcho by Prang  Small – Reeves  Pentel  Crayola | Dick Blick  Dick Blick  Dick Blick  Office Depot |
| Tempera Paints  *(Recommended Colors: Magenta, Turquoise, Black, and White)* | Blick Premium Grade Tempera  Prang Tempera  DO NOT USE a lower quality grade. The yellow will be transparent. | Dick Blick  Dick Blick  Office Depot |
| Paint Trays | Round 10-Well Trays (Plastic) | Dick Blick  (I got mine in the Target dollar bin last summer) |
| Chalk Pastels | Sargeant Art Square Chalk Pastels | Dick Blick |
| Fixative/Fixatif Spray  *(To spray chalk pastel pieces)* | Krylon Matte Fixative Spray  Dick Blick Matte Fixative Spray  *(Both sprays come in a Gloss as well. It just depends on the look that you want. I recommend Matte.)* | Dick Blick  Dick Blick |
| Sharpie Markers (Black) | Fine Point Marker  Ultra Fine Point Marker  *(Do not get the Twin Tip Markers. The smaller lid WILL get stuck inside the larger lid.)* | Office Depot |
| Paintbrushes | Blick Scholastic Wonder White Brushes  Crayola Premium Taklon Watercolor Brush (Size 7) | Dick Blick  Dick Blick/Office Depot |
| Sponges | Cut up into small squares *(for dabbing extra water off of your paintbrushes)* | Anywhere |
| Foam Brushes | 1 inch, 2 inch, and 3 inch | Office Depot  Dick Blick |
| Watercolor Paper  *(The higher the grade, the better the results, especially with the salt technique.)* | Blick Studio Watercolor Paper by Fabriano (Cold Press Watercolor Paper – 140 lb.)  Office Depot – White Watercolor Paper (Acid Free 140 lb.)  Strathmore 200 Series Watercolor Paper Student Pad (90 lb.)  Pacon Student Grade Artist Watercolor (190 g/m) This is the lowest quality grade. | Dick Blick  Office Depot  Dick Blick  Office Depot |
| Construction Paper  *(For more advanced projects that you are creating to display, you will want to purchase construction paper that does not fade.)* | Blick Construction Paper *(This paper is light-stable, which means that it will not fade quickly.)*  Pacon Construction Paper  DO NOT USE a lower quality paper. | Dick Blick  Office Depot  Office Depot |
| White Liquid Glue  *(I recommend trying to get a big jug with a pump as well as individual bottles for the students.)* | Elmer’s *(The RoseArt brand spoils quickly and is often an opaque yellow when it dries.)* | Everywhere!  Dick Blick – for the large jugs with the pumps *(ideal for creating water/glue mixtures for tissue and mixed media projects)* |
| Crayons  *(Crayons to buy in bulk: White and Black)* | Crayola  *DO NOT USE RoseArt Crayons. They are too waxy and the colors are very muted when applied.* | Everywhere! |
| Art Erasers | Prismacolor Magic Rub Drafting Erasers  Paper Mate Design Kneaded Eraser | Office Depot/Dick Blick  Office Depot/Dick Blick |

**Suggested Supplies To Purchase with Parent Club Money:**

(If treated with care, these supplies should last you more than one year.)

• Pelikan Watercolor Paints (Dick Blick)

• Sketcho Oil Pastels (Dick Blick)

• Chalk Pastels (Dick Blick)

• Paper (Watercolor, Construction, Drawing, Newsprint)

• Colored Pencils

**Suggested Supplies To Put on Your Classroom Wish List for Parents:**

**•** Crayons (Crayola – No RoseArt)

• Glue Sticks

* Black Sharpie Markers

• Liquid Glue (Elmers)

• Recycled Materials (Buttons, Fabric, Bottles, Container Tops for Tracing, etc.)

• Clorox/Lysol Wipes