

Volunteer Opportunities for The Feast Afternoons

At Harvest, we set aside two afternoons a week to celebrate the riches of our curriculum: Tuesday starting at 1:00 PM and Thursday starting at 12:00 PM. Our most critical need is on Thursday because we transport half of the students to the nature walk and a quarter of the students to Lake Marion Nursing Home.

We are very thankful for the seasoned volunteers who understand the process so well that they are able to lead a class. To learn how we study the riches, we invite you to let us know you are coming to observe for an afternoon. Until construction is complete, we will be celebrating The Feast at both campuses. You can contact the office so that we know you are coming.

There are a couple of habits to keep in mind in everything we do. Our students are quite capable of quietly studying a painting, listening to a piece of music, hearing a story read, or making interesting observations on nature walks. Most lessons follow this cycle: (1) remember what we did the last time, (2) study, hear, read, or notice for a short period of time, and (3) tell back what they noticed. Sometimes the class has an interesting discussion inspired by what captures their attention. The teacher's role is very different from what you may be used to. The teacher makes sure they are doing what is asked during the quiet time and listens to what the children have to say and guides any conversation. When we avoid prompting them with questions, students have a lot to say. Observing how this looks will help you better understand our process.

We expect our students to show respect to our volunteers and have good attitudes. Please send disrespectful students to the office, and we will take care of discipline.

We have put a button on the front page of the website <http://www.harvestcommunityschool.org> for getting current information on The Feast (pictures, links to playlists, etc.).

TUESDAY -

Picture Study is the careful observation of a great work of art, usually a painting, done so carefully that a student can describe it vividly from memory when the picture is put away. Three artists are studied each year and our first artist is the 20th century American artist Norman Rockwell. Every week, individual classes will study one of his paintings. We take about twenty minutes, at most, to go through

the process. The students start by sharing a few things that they remember from pictures studied previously. The teacher needs to listen. Then the teacher gives each child a painting and asks them all to study it quietly for a minute or two. After quiet study, the teacher allows pairs of children to share with each other what they notice. When the conversation lulls, the teacher picks up the pictures and students take turns sharing what they remember. Their memories are so good, there is no need to ask questions. The lesson ends when the class runs out of things to say.

Some students have questions of their own. To help the teacher answer them, we have a card for each painting. Attached is the material for six paintings so that you have time to prepare in advance. You do not need to read the whole thing to students but you can share quotes or paraphrases that tie into something a student said. You may want to share a few tidbits about the artist. Reading the whole card would be too tiresome to younger students so doing less is best!

Handwork is the neat and careful use of hands, materials, and tools to make some beautiful thing that can benefit another. The aim is for a student to develop a skill through slow, careful instruction. In the past, we have done drawing, painting, watercolor, pastels, string art on paper, origami, clay, crochet, and more. Each term we will focus on a particular media so, if you have a talent you wish to share, let us know. Summerton's Duckfest is coming up so we will spend the month of September working on art submissions. The theme is "All Things Wild Life" and we will provide more information and guidelines on Tuesday. Students in elementary and below will do some kind of drawing in pencil, colored pencils, markers, and/or pastels or painting. Middle school and above have the opportunity to make clay sculptures.

THURSDAY

Composer Study is the careful hearing of a great musical composition done so carefully that a student can describe details noticed about the music (instruments, pace, volume, dynamics, mood, pitch, and other terms). Three composers are studied each year and our first composer is the 17th century English composer Henry Purcell (which rhymes with *rehearsal*). Each week individual classes will study some of his music which we will post on a youtube channel playlist at The Feast link. We take about twenty to thirty minutes to go through the process. The students start by sharing a few things that they remember from music studied in previous weeks. The teacher only needs to listen. Then the teacher follows the instructions on the handout which we are trying to prepare in advance. As with the picture study, the students are the ones who are to listen and share their

observations. The teacher guides the conversation and adds a couple of tidbits based on what the students notice. The entire sheet does not need to be read.

Citizenship is where we read nature stories (primary), histories (elementary), or *Plutarch's Lives* and other selections (middle and high school) that offer moral ideas and how to live as good citizens. Each class has a book: *Parables of Nature* (primary) and *The Story of the Greeks* by H. A. Guerber (elementary). Middle and high dip into several over the year. The process is to ask the students to recall the previous reading. The teacher reads for five to ten minutes and the class narrates. Half of the school does community service by doing a project at the school or by visiting our friends at Lake Marion Nursing Home.

Nature Study is the observation of nature done so carefully by sketching, drawing, or painting what was seen. Nature study lays the foundation of science because observation is a critical habit. Before they reach high school, students have firsthand knowledge of living things, processes of nature, and nonliving things. We consider the nature walk part of instruction.

- The time set aside for the nature walk is for the nature walk only. It is not hang out time for friends. Friendly conversation can happen in the car. We expect the time on the walk to be spent doing nature study only and to be spent talking about the subject matter at hand — what is seen in nature.
- Some children will be tempted to run wild, and they will beg to go to the playground. We do not want to give in because their minds will focus on one thing and they will rush through the walk. We have playground equipment at school and they do have regular recess at school. There is no need to play before returning to school. We do not stop at the playground.
- To kickstart the year with better habits, we will provide a scavenger hunt each week. If you are unfamiliar with the walk, we will pair you up with an experienced teacher to show you the ropes.
- All children in your car belong to you. They are to stay with you on the walk. Require that those who run ahead to stick by your side for the rest of the walk. Unless you are a new teacher needing to learn the ropes, try to walk to a different spot (the floating dock for example), walk at a different pace, or explore a spot (the rocks near the dock) before walking to spread the groups out. The more groups clump together the more chaotic it will be.
- Some students will want to chatter and not stop to look at anything. Please go at a slow pace, stop a lot, and encourage the habit of silence because noise will scare away what we came to see.
- Please leave Taw Caw at 1:50 to be back at school in time for pick-up.

- On the way out let them put on boots if they have not already. Taking a walking stick is optional and up to the discretion of the driver. We expect students to carry what they bring and, if they find the walking stick a hassle, they do not need to bring it the next time. Please let us know if students misuse the sticks and those individuals will no longer use them.
- You should grab a can of bug spray for ticks and insects.
- Try to stick to the trails until it gets cold because we want to avoid snakes. If you see a snake, we have told the kids to freeze and quietly tell the adult. We want to back away and stay safe.
- There are different apps for phones, and we are gathering a list of ones you might find helpful on walks. It will be at The Feast page.
- Speaking of phones, please take pictures and send them to us so we can share them on Facebook. If you see something interesting, text the other walkers. It is a good idea to get the phone numbers of regular walkers so you can stay in touch.
- Please leave Taw Caw at 1:50 to have enough time to get back in time for arrival.