

Reaching Beyond the Art Classroom

***Create a school collection of the best Artist Trading Cards and organize them in a professional book!**

Last year I created my first all-student Artist Trading Card book to share the best work from my 1st-8th grade students. It was easy to create and customize, affordable, and a huge hit with the students and parents.

www.blurb.com

<http://www.blurb.com/user/store/art2theextre>



Why Blurb?

- Easy to use and more professional from your "generic" photo books (iPhoto, Snapfish, Shutterfly)
- Quality and flexible formats
- Reasonable pricing
- Ability to publish your book for others to order or view
- Facebook and social media apps to preview examples
- Post school projects privately, set your price, and have families order online
- NEW! Low-cost iBook and digital formats (starting at \$1.99) for iPads and iPhones, smart phones, etc.

***Use social media to create blogs, fan pages, or trading sites for ATCs.**

[Blogspot.com](http://blogspot.com)

<http://createcollecttrade.blogspot.com/> (very old and not updated)



Several years back, I created a blog for my book and the artists involved. It was not too complicated and was a great way to communicate with the other artists and spread the word about Artist Trading Cards. As a teacher, you could easily place links for students to visit, photo sharing and slideshow streaming via Flickr, links to order a Blurb book, etc. Many schools have their own sites, but take it one step further by creating your own page or adding an Artist Trading Card information station to your school's site!

**As with any social media and photos, make sure you and your students are following school internet and technology safety procedures. At my previous school, parents signed waivers.

***Trade with other schools, students, artists, or teachers. It is easy to find international connections and can expand your lesson into so many other disciplines and subjects!**

I have connected many schools in the past and would be happy to attempt to do so for you! I have some connections in China and a few other countries as well. I have created a Facebook page for teachers interested in connecting with other schools and communities to trade artist trading cards. Please visit:

<http://www.facebook.com/createcollecttrade>



***Host or organize a Family Artist Trading Card Night**

I just held one of these events and it was a blast! Students and their families were invited to come on a Wednesday evening from 6-7:30 to teach about and create Artist Trading Cards with their family. An adult had to stay with students at all times. I had a registration table to check in, a table for viewing books and examples, and then 6-7 different stations with explanations and examples of ATCs to create that night. Families could sit at each of the stations and create the project at that station, or they could come up with their own ideas. I had some middle school volunteers to work the tables, but the evening would have been just fine without them as well. I created this to be a low-key, low-stress event that families could come and go as they please. (See ATC Night parent letter/handout from the past two events I have held).

***Teach other teachers in your building about how to use ATCs in their classrooms!**