

THIRTY YEARS OF LOOKING AND RESPONDING: Katherine Douglas

Learn how teachers create studio settings for focused teaching and independent student work. Techniques will be shared for collecting information to target and evaluate instruction.

The Benefits of a Choice-Based Art Program

Imagine:

- Curriculum that emerges out of student-directed learning rather than explicit directions, eliminating the endless search for new lesson plans.
- Curriculum flexible enough to meet the unique needs of individuals and classes while addressing visual arts standards.
- Motivated students who bring their art ideas to class and engage in meaningful work.
- Students starting without your assistance, setting up materials and putting them away when they are finished.
- Learners successfully forming their own collaborative groups, coaching peers and assisting with classmates' challenges.
- Not having to modify lessons for challenged learners.
- Needing only enough materials for a few students at a time in each center.
- Children helping to stock the art room with objects they collect.
- Knowing your students through the content of their artwork.
- Being able to work and converse alongside a small group of invested students.
- Assessing what an individual really knows and can do by their artistic behaviors.
- Children in grades K-8 conducting independent studies, manageable even with 700 students.
- Every day bringing unexpected and amazing discoveries.

Ten Benefits of a Choice-Based Art Program in Elementary and Middle Schools

- **Visual art standards** are covered in instruction.
 - **Teaching and learning** addresses studio practice, art history, concepts and aesthetics.
 - **Assessment** supports both student and teacher growth.
 - **Higher order thinking skills** are the norm for independent work.
 - **Differentiation** addresses diverse learners' needs.
 - **High engagement** results in students on-task, fewer discipline issues and success for at-risk learners.
 - **Technology** is imbedded in artmaking, research and assessment practices.
 - **Integration** and extension of classroom curricula is supported for interested students.
 - **Time, space and resources**, often scarce, are utilized efficiently in the art studio learning environment.
 - **A safe environment** sustains deep learning for all.
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Engaging Learners Through Artmaking: Choice-based Art Education in the Classroom Katherine Douglas, Diane Jaquith Teachers College Press, 2009

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