

## Strategies for successful teacher/teaching artist collaboration

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### The Basics:

View yourself as an arts education advocate at all times!

Get to know the principal. Make a point to connect with them when you start your residency and invite them to come by later in the week to participate. The kids love it!

Acquaint yourself with the school secretary and janitors. Know their names and take the time to have a conversation with them. They really are interested. (Janitors like cookies)

Teachers are very busy, overworked and constantly planning, organizing and multi-tasking.

**Do not add to their work load.**

Everyone gets excited when there is a visitor in the school. Be friendly and open.

Volunteers are a blessing. Always find a place for them.

### Planning a residency:

When communicating with a teacher use their preferred means of communication. (telephone or email)

Let the teachers know what your scheduling needs are and allow the teaching team to figure out the details. Be flexible, but realistic. Build in restroom and supply reorganization breaks.

Ask if the school has art supplies that you can use to save the school money.

Ask what the students already know. Build on their knowledge. They love knowing the answers to your questions.

Seek Integration in everything you plan. Define Common Curriculum Goals and discuss ways to meet them. Ask the teacher if there are concepts the students are struggling with and create a way to address the issue through the arts.

Ask about students with special needs, their aids and effective teaching tools the teacher uses. Have a plan in place for these students. They deserve it.

### Residency tips:

Be on time and be prepared. Let the teacher know if you are struggling.

Allows defer to the teacher regarding discipline or anything concerning a particular student. They are the experts. Convey that you know this and want them to maintain that role at all times.

Be flexible. A willingness to change your plans is important. Keep the teacher informed if you are making changes. Unexpected problems often bring richness to the journey.

Leave the school better than you found it; both physically and emotionally.

Share student breakthroughs with teachers. They want to know.

Have a couple of community building activities at the ready, if needed.

Leave project examples, directions and supply lists with teachers, if possible.

Thank teachers, students, and staff for having you and send thank you notes.