

## Guadalupe Ceramics Program Orientation

The Clay Room is located on the lower playground behind the Boys restroom on the 2nd grade classroom side. You should sign into the office as a visitor and request the Clay Room key from the admin behind the front desk, leaving your name & phone number in the key log.

**How it works:** Each grade level has 2 clay projects per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Each project has 2 sessions. In the first session you mold raw clay, wait 3 weeks for the molded project to dry and then be fired in the kiln, and then glaze the fired project.

**Scheduling:** Have your teacher identify times that will work for the class. You should allow at least an hour with the class. You will be given access to the Guadalupe Clay calendar, and then you add an entry that will work for your class with one of the following time blocks:

*8:30-10:30 (before snack), 10:30-12:30 (before lunch), or 12:30-2:30pm (after lunch)*

Enter the following information: *Mold/Glaze, Project name, Teacher, Name, Phone #*

For example: 8:30am Mold Leaf Plate, Hull, Susan Smith 408-555-5555

Check out the [Ceramics](http://ghsc.net/ceramics) web info under the Guadalupe Home & School Club [ghsc.net/ceramics](http://ghsc.net/ceramics) site. Read through the **Handbook, Glazing and Molding** sections for details. The website has the project sheets with instructions for each project and a list of equipment needed for the project.

Review the locations of the equipment and glazes in the room. Make sure to clean mats with scrubbing brushes and clean rollers with wet towels so the next class has clean equipment.

**Molding** projects go on the boards labeled with **Teacher Name & Date**. Put each child's first name with last initial and the date on the bottom of the wet projects as directed by the project instruction sheet.

**Glazing** projects-- choose 4-6 colors for the project and usually glaze in the clay room in small groups. Give the children a time limit (e.g. 10 minutes each) so that everyone has time to decorate their project. Pour a small amount of each glaze into the bowls--the glaze is ruined if the colors are mixed. Remember that *brushes stay with the color* to avoid mixing the glaze colors.

For colors used as a **base coat** (like green for frogs) pour ¼ cup at a time. You can always add more. Do base coats first, let dry to opaque, and then add accents.

For colors used as an **accent** (like blue & red for gingerbread men) use 1-2 Tablespoons at a time in the small ½ cup bowls.

Clean the rims of the glaze containers with a wet sponge after each pour to ensure a tight seal when done. Put projects on board, again labeled with **Teacher Name & Date**.

- *Glazed projects should be allowed to dry so that they are not dripping prior to placing on boards. Do not put wet glazed projects on the boxes—the boxes are for projects that have been fired in the kiln and are ready for the next stage or to be returned to the students.*

**Clear glaze:** Ceramics parents may add clear glaze to the projects once the children are done decorating with glaze if there are spots not covered with glaze. Do not allow the children to glaze the bottoms of the projects unless directed to do so by the project instruction sheet (like gingerbread men). Use THIN coats of clear glaze on the bottom. \*Note: for older grades you may let the students choose to clear glaze themselves or not at all if desired.