

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications LABS

(CLASSES) ARE PROVIDED AS AN EDUCATIONAL SOURCE FOR PBL (PROJECT BASED LEARNING)

COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Taste of Glass for Beginners

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: Ages 12 and up

FORMAT: IN-PERSON ONLINE FLEXIBLE DAY AND TIME OF THE

WEEK: In-person classes, Thursdays 11:00am-3:00pm. 4 weeks

Beginning February 12th, 2026

Orientation : January 15th 11:00am

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 ADD'L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME): TOTAL

SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16

LOCATION: Water Street Glassworks, 140 Water Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

INSTRUCTOR: Eli Zilke & Gina Edwards

CONTACT INFORMATION: phone: 269.925.5555 email: eli @ waterstreetglassworks.org / gina@waterstreetglassworks.org website: waterstreetglassworks.org

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED? YES or NO? YES

IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION: Emergency contact form and waiver must be completed by adult guardian

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS (may attach a separate page if necessary):

Eli Zilke began glassblowing at the age of 12 as a student in the Water Street Glassworks Fired Up! after-school program. He eventually became a studio tech and teaching assistant under Jerry Catania, founder of Water Street Glassworks. Eli assumed the role of Studio Manager/Support and primary Glassblowing Instructor in 2018.

Gina Edwards has been working as a glass artist for over 20 years, and has been a Fused Glass and Beadmaking instructor at Water Street Glassworks for 16 years.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW):

Have you wanted to experience the fire arts but aren't sure what to try first? This studio "sampler" workshop will provide you with the opportunity to try your hand at several glass projects in three studios: Glassblowing, Fusing and Beads.

You will rotate through the studios and work with our knowledgeable instructors as they guide you create a piece in each medium. Expect to create:

- Week 1 - Fusing Studio - Fundamentals of Fusing - (2 fused glass pieces - coaster & plate)
- Week 2 - Glassblowing Studio - Spincasting (1 spincasting piece)
- Week 3 - Glassblowing Studio - Intro to Glassblowing (2 glassblown pieces)
- Week 4 - Bead Studio - Beginning Beadmaking - (Several flameworked beads)

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

Describe activities that will reinforce the lesson. Include any work and time to be required outside of class:

Week 1 - Fusing Studio - Learn to cut and layer glass to create masterpiece that will be fired in the kiln for completion.

Week 2 - Glassblowing Studio - Apply the principle of centrifugal force to ladle cast glass to get one-of-a-kind, beautiful bowls. Form bowl shapes in sand and press in patterns to create "one-use" molds. Pour in the glass and "spin" for a work of art.

Week 3 - Glassblowing Studio - Safety exercises, lecture on glass properties, learn tool use, teamwork and gathering exercises. Projects teaching tool use are: the paperweight and caterpillar exercise.

Week 4 - Bead Studio - Safety precautions, lecture on glass properties, learn tool use, beadmaking terminology and annealing process. Beadmaking demonstration followed by student torch time for practicing basic shaping techniques, including dots, grooves and stringers. Removing beads from mandrels

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Steps to check for student understanding, along with dates or # of weeks into class

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

- 1) Students agree to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
- 2) The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the teacher and turned into Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

Class-specific assessment: discuss and include the form or a link to the form that you use.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.)

CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

Attendance: Students MUST attend class per BSPP policy. No make-up days will be scheduled.

Weather: Water Street Glassworks follows Benton Harbor Public Schools closures for weather.

Other: Students will need to bring a notebook, writing utensil, water bottle, and snack to each class.

Students MUST:

- Wear all-cotton clothing - including long pants
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- Not wear jewelry, acrylic nails or false eyelashes
- Wear long hair tied-back
- Wear safety glasses (provided by WSG) at all times