

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

Course: Grow & Create DIY Club

Grade or Age Levels: Ages 8+

FORMAT: In-Person

DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK: Wednesdays 10:30 AM - 12 PM

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 18 hours (in class instruction)

ADD'L POSSIBLE HOURS: none

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 18 *

LOCATION: Brush + Bloom DIY Studio, 807 Lester Avenue St. Joseph MI 49085 (inside of Urban Garage Market)

INSTRUCTOR: Taylor Sebrechts

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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hello@brushandbloommi.com

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Taylor graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2012 with a degree in elementary education. After teaching first grade for four years at Lakeshore, Taylor started her own local business, The Turquoise Top Hat, which specializes in wood decor painting workshops. She has been teaching classes since 2016 for all age groups and has years of experience refinishing furniture, painting wood signs, and creating custom pieces with CNC and laser machines. The Turquoise Top Hat was rebranded as Brush + Bloom DIY Studio in 2024 to offer more walk-in style crafting experiences and plants.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Take your green thumb to the next level with a splash of creativity and fun! Our "Grow & Create DIY Club" is perfect for kids who love plants and the outdoors but also enjoy being creative. During this course, students will learn about basic houseplants and care strategies, while also creating special DIY projects themed to those plants. Students will engage in painting, wirebending, beading, and more. Through art-based activities, each student will gain the knowledge and understanding to grow amazing houseplants at home. This class is designed for ages 8+.

Syllabus/Outline: Weekly Breakdown of Project-Based Learning Activity

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

*Students will gain a general knowledge of

- tools and materials used in the process of plant care and basic art projects
- gain an understanding of working with peers to complete a task
- will be introduced to and follow a creative process through hands on projects
- how to provide positive affirmations to a fellow student on their work
- listening skills

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

All classes abide by the following:

- 1) Student agrees 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 in to 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.

3) This is a pass/fail course. If students successfully complete their weekly class projects and final project with effort, they will receive a passing grade.

CLASS SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT:

During this course, students will create 5+ different artistic projects, culminating in students choosing one type of houseplant and using their creative skills to make the right type of vessel to grow their plant. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of plant care by creating a care guide for their selected plant, as well as their knowledge of using basic art supplies to complete a project.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance: Please contact me before class if your child will be absent or ill. Text message is preferred. Arrangements can be made for your child to arrive early to a future session to get caught up.

Behavior: If your student is disrespectful in class, distractive or puts other students in danger, I will ask they be picked up early. Students are expected to actively participate in class. Additionally, students will not be allowed into the shopping areas of UGM without parental supervision.

Cell Phones: We understand the need for students to have cell phones in case of emergencies. Cell phones should be silenced and out of sight during instructional time. Students are welcome to bring a bag or pouch to store their phone in. Phones may only be used during break times or when permitted by the instructor.

Painting Safety/Attire: Your child may get paint on them during our classes. An apron and gloves will be provided, but please ensure your child wears attire that is okay to get messy in. We will be using the Annie Sloan line of chalk paint. You may request a copy of the spec sheet for safety information if you desire– please email me and I'll be happy to send a copy.

Weather: I follow the local district for closures. If the district the class is held in closes, we will not have class. Safety is our number one priority, so if you are not comfortable traveling please contact me and other arrangements can be made for a future session.

Additional Registration is not required at the site but we will ask participants and their guardians to fill out a liability release form at the beginning of the first class.

CLASS DATE	LESSON/OBJECTIVE
WEEK 1 Weds. Sept. 10 10:30 AM - 12 PM	INTRODUCTIONS: students will be introduced to our class and workshop space. They will learn about various types of plant care tools and basic art supplies. Students will practice identifying these tools by filling a supply caddy for use during the course.
WEEK 2 Weds. Sept. 17th 10:30 AM - 12 PM	BASIC HOUSEPLANTS: students will be introduced to 4 different types of basic houseplants and learn about their care requirements. Each student will select one houseplant and create a paper scrap collage to create a visual representation of that plant. Students will write a care description for their selected plant on the back of their collage.
WEEK 3 Weds. Sept. 24th 10:30 AM - 12 PM	SUCCULENTS: students will learn about succulent and cactus plants and their care requirements. Each student will choose a succulent, then paint a ceramic or terra cotta pot to hold their selected plant. Students will create a care card for their plant to take home.
WEEK 4 Weds. Oct. 1st 10:30 AM - 12 PM	PROPAGATION: students will learn how to propagate different plants by taking cuttings. Students will paint a propagation glass vase with stained glass paint and acrylic markers, then practice adding cut plants into their vessel to root. Students will create a "propagation log" to track the progress of the roots.
WEEK 5 Weds. Oct. 8th	CLIMBING PLANT: students will learn about various types of climbing houseplants, including Swiss Cheese Monstera and Golden Pothos. Students will select a plant to pot and create a climbing trellis by bending and wrapping wire. Students will then pot their selected plant and stake it to their trellis.
WEEK 6 Weds. Oct. 15th	TERRARIUMS: students will create a terrarium in a glass vessel to learn about the various layers of substrates needed for planting. Students will demonstrate an understanding of terrariums by labeling a diagram, then selecting plants and writing care guides for each.
WEEK 7 Weds. Oct. 22nd	TRAILING PLANT: students will learn about various types of trailing plants, similar to climbing, then select a plant to study and log. Each student will create a hanging plant pot using simple macrame techniques and adding beads and other embellishments.
WEEK 8 Weds. Nov. 5th	LEAVES: students will observe the different types of leaves found on common houseplants and the features of leaves, including fenestrations, stems, etc. Students will select one leaf shape to make a glass mosaic on a small picture frame.
WEEK 9 Weds. Nov. 12th	AIR PLANTS: students will learn about air plants and their natural habitat, care requirements, and various species. Students will select 3-5 air plants to care for, then create a wood air plant mobile using simple painting techniques.
WEEK 10 Weds. Nov. 19th	HUMIDITY: students will learn about the basics of humidity and it's importance to the care for selected houseplants. Students will create their own humidity domes and decorate them using acrylic markers. Students will select a plant to pot inside their dome and create a care guide for the respective plant.
WEEK 11 Weds. Dec. 3rd	FINAL ASSESSMENT: each student will demonstrate an understanding of basic plant care by selecting a plant and pot. Students will use a variety of art techniques taught in our course (painting, beading, mosaic, etc) to decorate their pot, then plant their pot according to its substrate needs and create a care guide.