

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

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

COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Sew Fun with Felt Crafts

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: Grades 6 - 12 (Younger students may enroll with supervision and parental approval)

FORMAT: Online

DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK: Asynchronous course; students complete assignments by weekly deadlines.

TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 1-2 hours per week

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16 – 32 hours

LOCATION: Online

INSTRUCTOR: Jessica Pelfrey

CONTACT INFORMATION: pelfreyfamilyschooling@gmail.com

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

I have been making and selling felt creations and other crafts for nearly a decade. What began as making my son's first Halloween costume became holiday play sets, baby mobiles, Christmas ornaments, and a variety of other projects that I have found interesting over the years. I hope to help students find a love for creating things from their own imagination, and how crafting can be a great way to express themselves!

COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW):

In this hands-on introductory sewing course, students will learn the foundations of hand-stitching through fun, felt-based projects designed to build confidence and creativity. Using just a few simple tools and materials, learners will master three essential hand stitches: the running stitch, whip stitch, and ladder stitch. These stitches will be applied to a variety of projects that gradually increase in complexity – from a no-sew felt bookmark and a sampler square to a stuffed toy, holiday ornament, and a final personalized felt creation.

Throughout the course, students will complete weekly assignments by watching instructional videos and reading short lessons, then submitting photos of their finished work for feedback. Emphasis is placed on developing fine motor skills, pattern-following, and the creative problem-solving that sewing naturally encourages.

No sewing machine is required – this course focuses on traditional hand stitching with felt, which is easy to cut, doesn't fray, and is perfect for beginners. All instructional materials are included as part of the supplied materials listed in the syllabus. This course is ideal for first-time stitchers and young makers looking for a creative, skill-building experience they can enjoy from home!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Supplied Materials: Included supply list is coming soon. Students should not need any supplies other than those provided. We will meet at the Dowagiac District Library at the start of the semester so you can pick up your supplies.

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

Week 1: Introduction to Sewing and Felt

Objectives: Course overview, basic tools & safety

Assignment: Felt bookmark (no-sew, cut & glue)

Week 2: Running Stitch Practice

Objectives: Threading a needle, knotting, practicing running stitch

Assignment: Felt sampler square with running stitch practice

Week 3: Felt Pouch

Objective: Straight seams using running stitch

Assignment: Create a small felt pouch with a flap using a running stitch

Week 4: Whip Stitch Practice

Objective: Learning and practicing whip stitch

Assignment: Stitch around edge of two felt pieces

Week 5: Felt Coaster

Objective: Clean edges with whip stitch

Assignment: Make a 2-layer felt coaster using a whip stitch

Week 6: Ladder Stitch Practice

Objective: Learning and practicing ladder stitch

Assignment: Practice piece joining two felt panels, including an invisible seam stitch

Week 7: Stuffed Felt Leaf

Objective: Sewing using various stitches and stuffing shapes

Assignment: Leaf ornament using ladder and whip stitches

Week 8: Felt Plush Monster, Week 1

Objective: Sketch & design a new project, prepare project for sewing

Assignment: Create a simple monster design with plans to use at least two stitches; submit photos of the sketch and prepped pieces.

Week 9: Felt Plush Monster, Week 2

Objective: Carry out sketch/design of a project and use new stitches learned

Assignment: Sew and stuff your felt monster, using at least two stitches learned in the course

Week 10: Sewing Challenge Week

Objective: Student creates a new project with instructor approval

Assignment: Submit a design sketch, stitch plan, and photo of your new project

Week 11: Felt Garland

Objective: Use skills learned to create a felt garland for display

Assignment: Create a felt garland; consider a leaf garland for the harvest season

Week 12: Review Week – Fix It Clinic

Objective: Use new skills to improve/mend previous work

Assignment: Make an improvement on a previous project, or find a household item to try to mend

Week 13: Felt Holiday Ornament

Objective: Combine skills learned this term to produce an inexpensive gift

Assignment: Create a sewn felt ornament (tree, star, gift, etc.) as a gift for a family member or friend

Week 14: Final Project Planning

Objective: Plan a more complicated sewing project

Assignment: Create a design sketch, materials list, and get instructor approval for the final project selection

Week 15: Final Project Work Week

Objective: Create sewing instructions and practice all stitches learned in the course

Assignment: Submit detailed instructions for your final project and a photo showing progress

Week 16: Final Project Submission & Reflection

Objective: Demonstrate cumulative learning in a finished felt piece and reflect on growth.

Assignment: Finish the final felt project and answer reflection questions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Each week, students will check in using Google Classroom. Students will receive their assignments on Sunday evenings, and will need to submit their assignments by Sunday of the following week. When each assignment is complete, students will upload a document or photo of their work and answer reflection questions about their experience completing that week's assignment.

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

- 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) We will keep track of course progress in Google Classroom. Your photos/document submissions and comments will be proof of your participation in the course for each week.