



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025

About Mrs. Susan Musselman

Mrs. Musselman has been teaching art for over 40 years and cannot imagine doing anything else! She says, "Creative energy gets me up in the morning and working with young creatives is the best!" Mrs. Musselman has been an instructor for Arts Alive Summer Camp for many years.

Classes:



Gone Fishin': Paper Mache -

Come play with balloons, newspaper, glue, glitter glue, paint, daubers and more. Campers will make their own hangable paper mache fish. Let your imagination run wild with this project. Simple supplies but lots of fun! Wear clothes that can get dirty!



Masks Galore: Mixed Media -

Who doesn't like a mask? Campers will explore various styles of masks and create their own designs. This is about mixed media with some mask forms being used, but simple cardboard as well. Add paint, tissue paper, glitter glue, painted clothespins, jewels, feathers and trims and you have a fun to "wear" unique mask.



Extraordinary Fabric Design -

Spend the week creating a painted, stenciled and stamped tote bag. Campers can also bring in a denim jacket, jeans or skirt to paint or stencil. THIS IS PERMANENT FABRIC PAINT! Campers will learn how to alter and paint clothing and recycle something old making it new. Come enjoy the process and after creating your tote bag campers can work on pieces brought from home.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. TaSheia Dokes

Ms. Dokes is originally from Arkansas where her love of cheer and dance began. She has had the honor of coaching and being the lead choreographer for the Texas College Steerettes in Tyler, TX. Ms. Dokes is currently the Winter Varsity Cheer Coach and Pointer Paw Pep Club Advisor at West Point High School. She is also the Founder/Director of the Virginia Cardinals Cheer and Dance Team, located in West Point, VA.

Classes:

Cheer Basics -

Campers will learn the basic foundations of cheerleading such as motions, jumps, stunts, cheer/chanting skills, learn cheer equipment and proper safety knowledge and technique in a fun setting.

Cheerography -

Campers will use basic cheer and dance skills to create a cheer style dance routine. No previous experience needed!

Build-A-Cheer

A fun filled class where campers get to use their creativity to compose their own cheer including words and motions!

Stunting -

Campers will learn the basics of stunting while learning a fun cheer routine.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Carolyn Wade

Mrs. Wade has been an educator of young children for over 20 years, and a musician for over 30 years. Carolyn is currently a preschool teacher in West Point. She enjoys spending time with her family at her home on the Pamunkey River.

Classes:

Bucket Drumming -

Campers will learn to read and play percussion notation on bucket drums, and will play (and sing) along to favorite rock and pop songs. Returning campers to the drum class will be given solo, improvisation and expanded drumming opportunities.

Body Percussion -

Campers will use their hands, arms, feet, and legs to play percussion rhythms to a variety of different types of music from classical to pop! A fun way to put music, movement, and rhythm together!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025

About Mrs. Mary Ann Littell



Mrs. Littell, a former social worker and volunteer leader, has worked with children from ages 4 -18 in various capacities. She worked with at-risk teenage girls and has also taught catechism classes for the young children ages 4-7 as well as middle grades children ages 12-14. In addition, Mrs. Littell coordinated a summer lunch program for youth working with volunteers who provided summer activities and free lunches. She likes to use her creativity and crafting skills to provide others an opportunity to broaden their thinking, artistic ability, and creativity all while having fun!

Classes:

Decoupage and Yarn Wrapping -

Campers will have fun learning the art of decoupage and yarn wrapping. As the week progresses, campers will create pieces from glass jar votives, memory boxes, greeting cards, and more!

Button and Faux Stained Glass Art -

Campers will create fun wall and window art using buttons and faux stained glass techniques. Campers will choose or create their designs. The colorful keepsakes created will be ready to display by the end of the week!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Renee Shannon

Mrs. Shannon has taught elementary music for 15 years and is currently the music teacher at West Point Elementary School. Mrs. Shannon directs the school choir, Melody Makers. She enjoys spending time with her family at the baseball field. Mrs. Shannon's children have both attended Arts Alive Camp for the past several years and she's excited to be back for her second year as a camp instructor!

Classes:

Recycled Music Instruments -

Campers will create various instruments with recycled and unique materials. Guitars from cereal boxes, ocean drums from shoe boxes, and rain sticks from paper towel rolls are just a few examples of the amazing instrument crafts campers will create!

Move and Groove to the Music! -

Campers will get their energy out in this class! Campers will move to various pieces of music using props such as scarves, ribbons, and a parachute. Campers will also be given the opportunity to use instruments. This will be a fun learning environment to explore different kinds of music while moving and grooving!

Let's Make Some Noise! (Explore with Xylophones, Drums, and More) -

Campers will have access to instruments such as xylophones, metallophones, and drums. Campers will learn how to play music together in an ensemble, create melodies to fun stories, and so much more!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Madison Raef

Ms. Raef is a West Point High School graduate. After high school, she attended Christopher Newport University where she received a bachelor's degree in musical theatre performance in 2021. Ms. Raef is currently living the dream in New York City auditioning for shows! She has been a performer all her life starting with dance classes at the age of three. She feels the arts taught her to be confident, disciplined, and ambitious. Ms. Raef is so excited to work with campers and encourage them to reach for the stars!

Classes:

Musical Theatre -

Campers will learn the fun of acting, dancing, and singing all at once! They will play acting games, learn a dance combination, and learn how to be confident singing in groups. By Thursday the campers will video their final performances to share with families.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Sharon Fowler

Mrs. Fowler is a retired elementary art teacher. She believes kids are an inspiration to her own art making. She enjoys working with all kinds of art media, loves to read, and explore!

Classes:

Stitchery Fun -

Campers will draw an original design for their stitchery projects to be transformed onto a piece of burlap. Students will learn all of the techniques they can use to complete a stitchery project.

Journaling and Paper Creations -

Campers will use different media techniques and processes to create their own personal journal and paper art designs. Using markers, colored pencils, water colors, scissors, construction paper, decorative paper, magazines, stickers and more the campers will bring home a great keepsake to continue to create pieces at home!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025

About Mr. Hunter Rhodes



Mr. Rhodes is a professional magician who performs magic full-time. As an early teen, he attended one of the top magic camps in the US “Tannen’s Magic Camp” which had a featured documentary on NETFLIX. Mr. Rhodes now uses what he learned to teach and perform magic to all age groups.

Classes:

Magic Camp! -

Mr. Rhodes will teach the fundamentals of magic. Campers will build and learn magic tricks they can perform for others as well as learn some of the history and the art of magic.

Card Magic! -

Campers will learn more about the most used tools of magic...a deck of playing cards! Mr. Rhodes will teach basic card handling, card sleights and controls, and a variety of tricks to amaze family and friends.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Tabby Gutierrez

Ms. Gutierrez is a 2024 graduate of New Kent High School and is currently attending Virginia Peninsula Community College. She has been sewing since she was very young and has participated in the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts fashion program four times. Ms. Gutierrez is excited to return for her second year as an Arts Alive Camp Instructor.

Classes:

Quilting for Beginners -

Campers will learn basic hand sewing and quilting skills. Campers will design, cut, and sew their own patterns over the week.

Beginning Sewing and Repair -

Campers will learn a variety of sewing skills. From threading a needle, sewing basic stitches, finger safety while sewing, and learning how to mend clothing.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Brittany Gutierrez

Ms. Gutierrez is a busy mom of four girls and one boy ranging from 2-19. She is an in-house substitute at New Kent Elementary School and an active member of the NKES PTO Board. Ms. Gutierrez has experience running children's art programs in Ohio and is a former Girl Scout leader. She loves gardening, volleyball, softball and being outside with her kids! She is excited to share her love of gardening and crafts with our Arts Alive Campers!

Classes:

Miniature Gardening -

Campers will be making miniature gardens with various mediums and recycled materials. This isn't just your regular fairy gardening...we will create mini gardens for our dinosaur and monster truck loving folks too!

Beginner Paper Quilling -

Campers will learn the technique of paper quilling at a beginner level. Throughout the week as they master their skills they will use various colors to create their own quilled masterpiece!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Elaine Greer

Mrs. Greer earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in Art from the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned a master's degree from Walden University in elementary education. Along with an education background, Mrs. Greer is also retired from the United States Air Force. She has placed in a student art competition and entered mixed media pieces at various art shows. During her time as a teacher, she loved conducting guided drawings and crafting with her students. Mrs. Greer has assisted in arts and crafts for Jamestown 4-H Summer camp in Williamsburg and enjoys holding paint classes in her home for adults.

Classes:

Recycled Art -

In this class, campers will create various items with recycled materials - toilet paper and paper towel rolls, egg cartons, cardboard, scrap paper. Using their imaginations campers will create animals, insects, binoculars, and so much more!

Book of Watercolors -

In this class, students will design and create a book to paint various watercolor pieces. The books created will have extra pages to continue creating at home. Campers will learn basic watercolor skills and explore watercolor techniques throughout the week.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Abby Plancarte

Mrs. Plancarte has been knitting for over ten years and crocheting for four years. She spends her days working from home with her son and running the family farm! Mrs. Plancarte is excited to share her craft with our campers!

Classes:

Knitting Basics -

Campers will learn basic knitting terms and stitches. As the week progresses, campers will create a set of coasters to use at home!

Crochet Basics -

Campers will learn basic crocheting terms, skills, and stitches. As the week progresses the campers will use these skills to create their own squishy, stress ball.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Mrs. Kirsten Palfrey

Mrs. Palfrey is a 2022 graduate of Radford University where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Education. She loves to teach young minds the love of dance and movement. Mrs. Palfrey recently led the dance choreography and instruction for West Point High School Theatre's production of Newsies. She's excited to be returning to Summer Arts Camp this year.

Classes:

Jazz Dance -

Campers will learn basic Jazz dance steps and choreography. Throughout the week campers will learn different ways to move their bodies such as isolations, jumps, turns, and more. By Thursday the class will record their final dance performance to share with families.

Musical Theatre Dance -

Campers will learn the basic dance skills and steps. Working as a group they will create simple choreographies to popular musical performances. By Thursday the class will record their final performance to share with families.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Jessica Sanderson

Ms. Sanderson was born into a world immersed with music as both of her parents were music majors and one a music educator. Though she loved music, Ms. Sanderson developed a new love for other forms of art and loves sharing her love with her two kids and the students she works with at West Point Elementary School. She loves to spend time with her kids observing nature, crafting, listening to music and enjoying the simpler things. Ms. Sanderson is excited for the opportunity to share what brings her joy with our campers and hopefully spark their own joy this summer.

Classes:

Space, the Final Frontier -

Blast off with us as we make our way through the solar system discovering and creating together along the way. We will unearth the music and art that orbits the sun in a fun and inventive week of exploration.

Color Splash Creations -

Campers will make a splash as they paint and create together. Children will have the whole creative experience from planning to watching their ideas come alive at the ends of their fingertips.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Benzena Street

Ms. Street is a part time substitute teacher and stay at home mom who loves to craft and create. She has a small business with her daughter called Zamari Bows. Ms. Street's daughter has attended Arts Alive camp and she's excited to be sharing her love of the arts with campers this year as an instructor!

Classes:

Art-Tok -

Campers will use their imagination to create various pieces of art inspired by online trends. From acrylic paints, beads, fabrics, and more campers will create various projects throughout the week! No screens needed for these fun activities!

Ribbons, Bows, and More! -

Campers will learn how to make a variety of bows. Learning the basic techniques and adding their own designs and embellishments campers will create bows to accessorize their hair, bags, clothes, and more!



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025



About Ms. Ruby Kate Vincent

Ms. Ruby Kate Vincent is an artistically involved student at West Point High School. She attended Arts Alive Summer Art Camp for six years and has volunteered for three years. Ms. Vincent enjoys every aspect of the arts and is excited to bring what she loves to camp this summer as an instructor!

Classes:

Prince and Princesses Mixed Art Class -

This magical camp class where young royals can immerse themselves in the worlds of their favorite princes and princesses! Inspired by Belle, campers will create beautiful rose crafts and explore the magic of reading. With Rapunzel, they'll get creative with braided jewelry and lantern making. There will be Cinderella and Alladin inspired crafts as well. Along with art, campers will sing and dance to their favorite royal songs bringing in theatre and chorus skills.

Moana Inspired Mix Media Class -

This favorite island adventure comes to life in this class. Campers will create flower crowns, design their own wooden boats, and so much more. All while adding in some musical theatre adventures with the music and movement from this favorite soundtrack.



Instructors and Class Descriptions- Summer Arts Camp 2025

About Ms. Tina Crawford

Ms. Crawford's interest in mosaics started many years ago. She loves creating using a diverse assortment of materials, including glass, tiles, metal, and wood. Ms. Crawford is passionate about sustainability and believes in preserving our planet as much as possible. She often incorporates recycled glass, wood, and other reclaimed materials in her projects. She loves the challenge of transforming an old item into something entirely new. Currently, Ms. Crawford teaches classes for adults, children's summer camps, and offers private studio sessions and hosts painting or mosaic parties in homes.

Classes:



Mosaic Coaster and Geometric Window Sun Catchers -

Campers will create a beautiful mosaic coaster for their drink cup and a vibrant sun catcher to decorate their wall or hang in a window. They will arrange colorful tile pieces on a terracotta saucer for the coaster and use a round wood cutout as the base for their stunning wall art. Throughout the process, students will learn how to properly glue and grout their designs, gaining hands-on experience while crafting their unique, eye-catching masterpieces.



Christmas in June -

Campers will use a variety of colorful glass pieces and ceramic tiles in different shapes to design two stunning ornaments perfect for hanging on a tree, wall, or window. Using round wood cutouts as a base, they will carefully arrange and secure the tiles with wood glue before applying grout to complete their unique, handcrafted masterpieces.