

KIRKLANDARTSCENTER

Student Intro Packet

Welcome to Kirkland Arts Center!

KAC offers students and instructors a fully equipped ceramic studio, including 12 potter's wheels, 4+ large work tables, a 24-inch slab roller, 2 extruders and a well-stocked glazing area. We currently have 6 electric kilns, 2 high-fire gas kilns, a soda kiln and a raku kiln. KAC offers approximately 16 ceramics classes/workshops per quarter. Instructors are talented teachers and ceramic artists, many of whom show their work locally.

In order to have a clean, safe, and enjoyable place in which to work, please abide by the following guidelines to ensure that your creative experience is a positive one.

Firing & Work Deadlines

Students are able to make new work starting in the first session of class up to the bisque deadline, which is your 9th session of class. The last week of class is reserved for glazing. Deadlines for placing your work on the bisque firing shelf and glaze firing shelf will be posted around the studio and communicated via email. Work will be fired throughout the quarter, finishing the week or so after respective deadlines. Bone dry greenware will usually get fired within a week unless it is particularly large. Glaze kilns are loaded once there is enough work to fill the kiln in order to promote even heating and oxygen levels. They are usually fired at least once a week but it is dependent on student production.

All student work needs to be finished by the end of your last class. The staggered ending allows for a more even flow of kiln firings during the last push to get work out and helps all work get bisqued before your last class.

Although instructors, the ceramics team, and you will all do our best to get your pieces successfully finished, there are many points along the way for human error or technical issues. Ceramics is a medium with both happy and unhappy surprises. As a result, KAC cannot guarantee the success or results of work made in the classroom or the firings. KAC is not liable for unsuccessful, broken, missing, or disposed work before or after posted clear out dates.

If a student makes work that damages the kiln or sleeves, they are responsible for the cost to replace or repair the part. If you are unsure of a clay or glaze, please consult the ceramics team before firing. Any work the ceramics team has deemed unable to fire will be placed on the “rejects” shelf. If you find your work on these shelves, please consult your instructor or a tech to find out why.

Work Pickup

The kiln shed is open for work pickup during studio hours for the duration of the quarter. After the quarter ends, it will be typically open 10-5 Monday through Friday. The kiln shed is closed during all holidays and office closings. Please refer to the KAC Calendar for more info.

Please ensure that all work is marked with your name or maker's mark. Many pots look alike and glaze sometimes turns out different than expected. This ensures you don't mistakenly take someone else's favorite piece home!

Safety

Instructors will discuss material safety with students. For your reference:

Clay dust, both unfired and fired, is toxic. While short exposure may just make your nose run, habitual exposure can cause silicosis. This incurable disease causes the lungs to scar over in spots and become unusable. Consider your lifelong potter friends when you clean. Using water to clean (think mopping or sponging) is the preferred method. Sweeping should only be used sparingly and carefully because it kicks up dust. No vacuuming, even if there is a filter as they do not filter out ceramic dust.

NO SANDING allowed in the studio. Only sand outside, away from entrances, with a mask. Ask your instructor for help with safe sanding practices like wet sanding and mask selection.

We use materials that are non-toxic once fired. Some glazes or glaze combinations are not vitreous when fired and therefore are permeable, making them not technically food safe. Please refer to the glaze chart or staff member if you are concerned. There are a few raw materials that are toxic before firing so we recommend using provided nitrile gloves. Some people also find that they are irritated by wet glazes when they make skin contact.

- All accidents and/or injuries that occur at KAC must be reported to instructors and the Ceramics Team ASAP in order to complete accident report forms.
- Basic first aid kits are available for minor injuries in the kitchen and the ceramics studio.
- In the event of an earthquake, students and instructors are advised to get underneath the tables and hold on to a table leg if possible. Alternatively, move to an inside corner of the room.
- KAC is a smoke-free environment. If you choose to smoke, please do so outside the building and dispose of cigarette butts in the trash.
- Alcohol use is not permitted by anyone under the age of 21 or during raku firings.

Clean Up

It is imperative that students clean up after themselves. It keeps the air safer for us all!

There is no cleaning service in the ceramics studio. If the studio is left dirty, it takes time away from the team firing your work and keeping the studio running smoothly.

Clean Up Checklist:

- Wipe down your entire work area (wheel and/or table)
- Ensure all surfaces - wedging table, floor, etc. are clean and clear of clay
- Mop floor around your work area even if it is not visibly dirty
- Wash all tools, trays, and buckets - a first rinse with dirty water, then a rinse with fresh tap water is best for saving water; be mindful if cleaning at the end of class or open studio that there will likely be a crowd at the sink
- Items dirty with glaze should be washed in the big glaze buckets prior to a final rinse in the sink - this saves Lake Washington from chemical pollutants
- Return all studio equipment to its proper place and your tools to your cubby

NO Clay or glaze down the sink!

Our drains and pipes are old, sensitive, and prone to clogging. When cleaning up at the end of class or open studio, put all clay trimmings and hardened clay in the trash can and slop in the slop bucket. We do not currently have a reclaim program.

Storage Space

Students are assigned a shelf space and are welcome to share community shelves. When using a community shelf, please label your work with your name. It is difficult to find things when everyone's work is covered in plastic without disturbing others' pieces by lifting plastic.

Label your clay bags with both your name and the clay. Some clays are available in two temperatures so note the cone number on the bag as well. We'd hate a cone 5 b-mix to go through the gas kiln and melt everywhere!

There is no studio use during breaks and all materials must be taken home at the end of the last class session.

Clay

In the first class of the quarter, each student receives one free bag of clay. Additional clay can be purchased in the Ceramics Studio from instructors, team members, or work/study students. Most bags of clay are \$30 but some are \$35. We accept credit and debit cards as well as digital cards (ie apple pay) but not cash/checks.

Any clay or glaze purchased outside of KAC must be approved by a KAC Ceramics team member.

Glazing

KAC offers a wide variety of glazes and firing temperatures. It is recommended to follow along with the firing temperature being used by your instructor for your class. Please consult your instructor or a member of the KAC ceramics team for questions about glazes.

To get the most out of your class it is important to start glazing early in the quarter. You can test things out, ask your instructor questions, and make adjustments for future pieces.

Open Studio

KAC offers Open Studio time to currently enrolled ceramics students. These designated times and your class time are the only times you should be using the studio. Unenrolled participants aren't allowed so please don't invite your friends and family to join.

Open Studio hours vary each quarter. Please check the posted schedule. There will be someone monitoring your open studio time. This may be a staff member, work/study student, or volunteer. Please check the "Meet the Team" board if you're unsure who may be a resource. We may be in another area of the studio so check if we're loading a kiln, writing an email, etc. if you can't find us.

Please make sure you leave enough time to thoroughly clean up before Open Studio ends for the day.

Canceled Classes

Our class calendar is posted on the website with holidays that KAC is closed. If class is canceled for any reason, students will be notified via the email address provided when registering. If possible, a makeup class may be scheduled at a later date. If not, students will receive a prorated refund for the canceled class.

Communication

We will primarily communicate with you via email. There are weekly newsletters that provide important information regarding deadlines, reminders, etc.

Questions

Your primary resource for technical questions regarding firing, glazes, clays, etc. is your instructor.

Registration and scheduling inquiries should be addressed to the Education Team at registrar@kirklandartscenter.org.

Thank you and happy potting!!