



Talawanda School District

For Immediate Release

News Release: Voss Finn to be Artist-in-Residence at Kramer Elementary School

After nearly a year's worth of planning, Kramer Elementary School will be hosting Cincinnati-area artist Voss Finn as its artist-in-residence May 4-15. During this two-week period, Kramer students will get to work with Mr. Finn during their art classes, and his residency will culminate with a permanent sculpture to be displayed on the school's grounds.

Local artist Diane Stemper pitched the idea of bringing a working artist to Kramer through the Ohio Arts Council at a PTG meeting last spring. As the parent of a Kramer student, Stemper wanted all of the kids in the school "to have the experience of talking to and working with a studio artist for an extended period rather than just seeing an artist once or looking at an artist's work in a book." Stemper feels that "becoming involved with the artistic process is vitally different from watching a musician or discussing a painting," and wanted Kramer students to have that opportunity.

A group of Kramer parents and staff members secured the OAC grant and traveled to Columbus this fall to choose Voss Finn from a wide selection of Ohio artists as Kramer's artist-in-residence. Finn has previously completed public sculptures in Manhattan, Peru, and Hamilton's Pyramid Hill.

During Finn's residency at Kramer Elementary, a core group of 4th-5th graders will be selected to work with the artist on a sculpture that will be showcased on the school's site. This final project will be unveiled at Kramer on Thursday, May 14, at 6:00 p.m. This reception is free and open to the public.

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. Additional support for Finn's two-week residency comes from Kramer's Parent Teacher Group.

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