

# Artsonia: Benefits

Each year, thousands of art teachers nationwide showcase their students' artwork online at [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com). Artsonia, the world's largest online student art museum, offers a free, educational program to schools, teachers and parents. This document describes the school and teacher benefits of participating in Artsonia.

## Artsonia: Benefits

Participating in Artsonia provides many benefits to schools, teachers, students and parents:

- **Boost students' pride and self esteem:** Repeatedly, participating teachers tell us about the increased pride and self esteem their students feel after participating in Artsonia. Viewing their own creations in an online museum, students are putting forth extra effort in the art room, knowing it will be posted for all their friends and family to appreciate.
  - **Increase parental and family involvement in students' education:** Parents and family members take a much more active role in their child's art education by viewing the artwork online, joining the child's fan club, and leaving supportive comments in the artist guestbook. Teachers tell us this feedback from family, especially relatives who may not live nearby, is priceless in the development of the child's artistic confidence.
  - **Financial support for art program:** After the student artwork is published online, the parents and family may purchase keepsakes from the museum with the child's artwork imprinted on it, and 15% of the revenue is commissioned back to the school art program. Depending on the amount of promotion the teacher invests and the demographic of family members, this support could range from hundreds to thousands of dollars for additional equipment / art supplies for the classroom.
  - **Integrate technology into the classroom:** Teachers and students engage in classroom art projects, and publish their artwork in an online art gallery. The technical literacy of viewing artwork online, tracking artists own statistics online, leaving other comments for friends, etc, provides a technology experience for students that stays within a safe, educational environment\*.
- \* See Important Questions and Answers Section for details on privacy / child safety.
- **School rankings and honors for art program:** Each year, Artsonia highlights and honors top participating schools and art programs. The awards are based on both technology integration and community involvement. Other administrators tell us this provides a very tangible statistic to highlight to their local community about the richness of their art program.
  - **Enrichment of school art program:** Participating teachers can share and post lesson plans, increasing the quality of the art lessons provided by their school. This teacher resource keeps the art program on the cutting edge of quality cross-curriculum art projects.

We cordially welcome your school community and hope that you and your students will find the experience with Artsonia as rewarding as the thousands of teachers, schools and families before you.

## Artsonia: Important Questions and Answers

When deciding whether or not to participate in Artsonia, there are many questions that are asked repeatedly by administrative officials. Below are the most common and important ones. However, if there are still unanswered questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always here to help make our teachers and school administrators feel comfortable with this program. Our contact information is [info@artsonia.com](mailto:info@artsonia.com) and 800-869-9974.

### **1. Do teachers need to get parental permission to publish their students' artwork?**

Many school policies already allow the publishing of artwork online, and if that is the case, then you can get started right away. However, if that is not the case, or if you are unsure, we strongly encourage teachers to send home parental permission forms prior to publishing the artwork. An Artsonia parental permission form can be found at [www.artsonia.com/teachers/docs](http://www.artsonia.com/teachers/docs).

Note: this permission form is good for the student for the tenure of their attendance at the school, so the teacher only needs to get the permission one time for each student.

### **2. How do you ensure privacy for young students?**

On the Artsonia website, each student is identified only by a “screenname” which is usually the student's first name and number (e.g., Sarah22). Last names are never publicly posted on the website. Additionally, all comments are pre-approved by the registered parent before being posted for the artist. Teachers can either pre-register the parent directly if they have access and permission to use the parents' contact information, or they can distribute “security keys” to the parents for use when they register online. (A security key is a special code that ensures only the parent or legal guardian can register online for their child.)

### **3. Who owns the copyright of the artwork submitted?**

Artists retain ownership of their artwork. However, when the parent registers on our website, they grant Artsonia the right and license to, among other things, publish the artwork in the museum, on merchandise, and on Artsonia promotional material. Artsonia will always remove any artwork from its website upon request. For full details, see our Terms and Conditions at [www.artsonia.com/terms.asp](http://www.artsonia.com/terms.asp).

### **4. Are there any advertising / banner ads?**

As an educational website, we do not accept any banner advertising nor any solicitation of students by any third parties through our website. We do accept sponsorships of specific educational programs on our website from reputed, educationally-oriented companies. However, none of them may solicit or attempt to sell anything to students.

### **5. How long will the artwork be published?**

Artwork may remain published on the website indefinitely until either the parent or the school chooses to remove it.

## Conclusion

As a continually evolving site, we are constantly adding features, accepting suggestions, and generally attempting to improve the experience of Artsonia for teachers, students, and parents.

Artsonia offers teachers and families an unprecedented opportunity to showcase artwork to a worldwide audience. Our experience indicates that this can lead to a tremendous boost in the pride and self esteem of young people, develop their multicultural outlook and increase family involvement in their education and achievements. Participating teachers also get recognition for their art program, integrate technology in their curriculum, and receive financial assistance for their art classroom.

We welcome you and your school to join our rapidly growing list of schools from all over the world. See firsthand the power of Artsonia and its ability to make a positive change in your students' lives.

## Appendix 1: Current Active Schools Participating

Below are some of our most active teachers and schools. You can also visit [www.artsonia.com/schools/rankings](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/rankings) to see the current school year's top ten schools.

- Faith Family Academy of Oak Cliff, Dallas, TX has published over 10,000 pieces of student artwork this year. [www.artsonia.com/schools/faith5](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/faith5)
- In the 2008/2009 school year, Gulf Elementary, Cape Coral, FL had over 3,500 fan club members and over 1,500 comments on their school artwork. [www.artsonia.com/schools/gulf1](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/gulf1)
- Orchard Drive Elementary School, Jackson, MO has received over 10,000 comments on their school artwork in the last 3 years. [www.artsonia.com/schools/orchard8](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/orchard8)
- Kennedy-Powell Elementary School, Temple, TX has had over 500,000 visitors to their school gallery in the last 8 years. [www.artsonia.com/schools/kennedypowell1](http://www.artsonia.com/schools/kennedypowell1)

## Appendix 2: Feedback from Teachers, Parents and Students

Below are some teacher quotes after their experiences with Artsonia:

- YOU so much deserved the art award for best business support [Artsonia won an award from the National Art Education Association in 2006]. Artsonia has saved many an art position due to the positive comments the schools receive from parents. This is my first year at this school and my principal is speechless when she sees what the children can do and is flooded daily with positive comments from parents about the new art program - *Carol Ann Hough, Milken National Educator, Hinesville, GA*
- I want to take this time to tell you how wonderful my experience with Artsonia has been. I have 3 schools/programs I manage and I have had fabulous response from parents who've viewed the sites. The kids are thoroughly excited to have their art on the on-line galleries and friends and family have left numerous comments for their young artist friends – *Lisa Lathrop, Minot Area Council of the Arts, St. Leo's School, Minot, ND*
- I can't even begin to tell you how much my students parents, grandparents, community and I have enjoyed Artsonia! It is responsible for breathing new life into this 26 year veteran teacher! – *Barbara Henson, Stockton Schools, Stockton, KS*
- I love artsonia and kids and parents have come to love it too! It is a wonderful tool for the teacher and a great self-esteem builder and of course last but not least it has been know to make the buttons pop right off the chest of some parents! LOL – *Connie Benedict, Miami Will Rogers Middle School, Miami, OK*