

ART FOR ALL

When the parents of special needs students at Eastlake Middle School asked for an extracurricular activity for their children, the staff responded.

Under the direction of Stephanie Royko, the staff came together to form an activity centered around the arts, that would focus on the abilities of all students rather than their disabilities. The club, Art for All, currently has a membership of approximately 55 typical and special needs students and a goal of increasing Autism awareness in the community and in their school.



Each month, prior to the club meeting, the art club leaders in collaboration with other Eastlake Middle students and staff, work to prepare activities for the club members to complete. The staff and student leaders focus on an activity that all of the members will be able to complete, fostering an appreciation of the arts for all. During the art club meetings, the members complete hands-on activities to create genuine works of art.



During the November meeting, each student was given two clay puzzle pieces and used them to create Autism Awareness Christmas ornaments. Each student painted these using the primary colors, red, yellow and blue. The students will have an opportunity to take one ornament home and the other ornament will be used at the "Art Club" art table at the upcoming craft fair held at Eastlake Middle.

The volunteers in the club, both adults and students, feel that participation in the club has increased their awareness and appreciation for others in their school community and they have had an opportunity to learn about challenges different from their own.

Teach - Learn - Grow

