

CINCINNATI ADAPTIVE ARTS & MUSIC CAMP
ART HANDBOOK
July 19-24, 2026

Northern Kentucky University
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Info@theadaptiveartsandmusicproject.org

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION FORM

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

Art is an indispensable part of our lives as human beings. It helps us develop sensitivity and an aesthetic appreciation for beauty. Even the youngest child is attracted to art; it is a language that transcends cultural and language barriers. Studying and engaging in the creation of art allows us to express ourselves more fully. Every child, regardless of physical limitations or level of ability, should have the opportunity to learn how to express themselves through art.

There are many established positive benefits that come with studying art. Research has shown correlations between art study, fine motor and spatial awareness development, as well as flexible thinking and the development of creative skills. Collaborative art projects provide opportunities for students to learn the more refined aspects of cooperation, self-discipline, and leadership.

WHO WE SERVE

We are currently welcoming students with physical disabilities who require adaptations in order to engage in the creation of art. The focus of this camp is to create adaptations that create access for students with physical disabilities who desire to sculpt clay, throw pottery, and paint. To provide a context for understanding, historically, we have worked with children with the following disabilities (this list is not exhaustive):

1. Limb differences and amputations
2. Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita
3. Osteo Imperfecta
4. Cerebral Palsy (hemiplegia, levels I-III)

Human diversity is a beautiful thing, and we are certain that there are other potential students with disabilities not listed above. We also understand that there are many twice exceptional art students. If you have any questions about your child's support needs and the supports and purpose of the camp, please reach out to info@theadaptiveartsandmusicproject.org and we will gladly set up a time to talk.

STATEMENT OF ART TEACHING AND LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

Since the Adaptive Arts and Music Camp is meant to be a collaboration between parent, child, teacher, and engineer to uncover the best way to ensure success for students who need to adapt their technique, both parent and child are deeply involved in the learning process.

A child's home environment plays a major role in how easily and successfully they learn a new skill. While every child is born with different abilities, their growth depends greatly on encouragement, practice, and support at home. We believe every child can learn to create sculptures, pottery and paintings when they are surrounded by consistent modeling, practice, and positive reinforcement.

Parents play an important role in this process. Celebrating small successes and staying positive creates a strong foundation for artistic growth.

When practice at home is combined with quality instruction, children are given the support they need to develop their skills, confidence, and love of art over time.

THE COMMITMENT TO STUDY ART

We put a lot of time and resources into supporting each child who comes to our camp to be able to take the next step in their artistic journey. We ask our students to commit to **personal practice, keeping an ongoing sketch book, and seeking at least one additional art class in their community during the next year.** We understand the reality of busy schedules but ask that you commit to do your best to meet this goal in order to get the most out of your camp experience.

SUPPLIES TO HAVE ON HAND AT HOME:

Once you return home, it is best to provide not only opportunities for art classes, but also to have supplies at home. Ceramics require: bucket or bowl for water, forks/knives to cut clay, wire for cutting clay, a sponge,

paintbrushes, sketchbooks, pencils of various weights, paint palette, and a table top pottery wheel. Access to a kiln can typically be purchased through local ceramic studios for varying prices. Students may also work in clay mediums that can be baked in an oven.

Please note: At least one parent must be present with the student at camp at all times.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS WHILE AT CAMP

Our class atmosphere is supportive and encouraging so that we may do our best to build skills class by class. Everything is a learning experience...there is no such thing as a mistake. The following are the expectations for students at camp:

1. positive attitude toward lessons, class, concerts, rehearsals, and activities
 - a. pays close attention to the teacher
 - b. responds to suggestion and skills that the teacher demonstrates
 - c. doesn't chew gum or candy or talk in class at inappropriate times
2. considerate of others
 - a. only says things that will help others learn positively
 - b. recognizes positive efforts of others
 - c. respects the rights of others by remaining focused on the lesson

Please understand that while we do rely heavily on positive reinforcement and teaching expected behaviors, we are **not** currently equipped to provide ABA-based behavior support at camp. Parents are responsible to ensure that their child is able to participate, independently, in camp activities without behavior supports that go beyond universally designed motivators. If you have any questions regarding behavior, please feel free to reach out to the camp directors at info@theadaptiveartsandmusicproject.org and we would be happy to talk through your child's needs and the supports available at camp.

ART SUPPLIES AT CAMP

All art supplies will be provided while the student is at camp to cover all instruction in drawing, painting and ceramics. If your child has any specialized equipment they wish to bring, they should do so. Students will have the opportunity to create as many sculptures and vessels as they wish. Camp tuition will cover the glazing, firing and shipping of up to 3 pieces. Beyond that, students will have to pay an additional fee based on the size and weight of the piece.

ENGINEERS

Students at camp connect with their chosen medium in a way that is unique to them. Often this involves developing a device that has never been built before. We work closely with the engineers at May We Help, a volunteer organization that builds unique devices for people who need them.

TENTATIVE SAMPLE CAMP SCHEDULE:

8:30 Arrival and announcements

9:00 Private lesson

10:00 Improv

11:00 Recreation

12:00 lunch & games, rest time

1:30 Practice time

2:30 Painting Class

3:30 Open Studio Time

4:30 General Music Class

Evenings - all-camp activities for families to enjoy

CAMP LIFE

Parents, students, staff, and faculty will be staying in university housing, and will be provided meals through the university meal service. We are encouraging all to eat together as it helps to build community. We will also have fun activities and entertainment each night of camp.

While we will have a small first aid station at the registration table, parents are responsible for the medical care of their child throughout camp. In case of emergency, a branch of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital is located just off of the university campus. Cincinnati also has an extensive network of nationally ranked hospitals and medical centers.

WELCOME PACKET

We will send out a welcome packet several weeks before camp begins which will contain a more detailed packing list along with further information about camp.

We look forward to working with you this summer!