“*Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life*.”

**Pablo Picasso**

**Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,**

Greetings and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! My name is Mrs. Murrah, and I have the pleasure of teaching art at Germantown Middle School.

In art class, our course of study will focus extensively on problem solving and using the elements and principles of design in order to create expressive, well-organized works of art. We will also focus heavily on basic drawing skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of both two and three-dimensional materials and mediums. Students will also have opportunities to write about and discuss their own works and the works of others in their visual art journals, as well as in class discussions.

Just as you have high expectations for me as your teacher, I, too, have high expectations for my students. I expect students to come to class prepared and ready to create original artwork. Students are expected to be responsible with supplies and to be on task, so that quality work can always be produced. The art room is a place of mutual respect. I expect students to treat their peers, teacher (whether a substitute or me), and themselves with the highest level of respect.  Students should be polite and not put down their artwork or the artwork of another classmate.

To close, I am extremely excited about teaching art at GMS and I cannot wait to watch each student grow and mature artistically. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shannon Murrah, NBCT

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