



PENINSULA PERFORMS!

FIELD ARTS & EVENTS HALL

MARYSUE FRENCH


Fiber Artist

REQUEST THIS ARTIST

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DETAILS

- Available to Grades 5 & 6
- 90 minute sessions
- Single class experience
- The class can be shorter than 90 minutes if split into multiple sessions.
- Curriculum connections are adapted to specific grade levels, subjects, & learning objectives.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Classroom space
- Desks or large table surface
- Cafeteria trays (one per student)
- Access to water

About MarySue

MarySue learned to knit from her grandmother at the age of four and a fiber artist was born. While comfortable with all fiber mediums: knitting, crochet, spinning yarn, weaving, dying fibers, sewing, and quilting, her true passion is felting. Her "Go Felt a Fish" sculpture and "Fairies in a Hurricane" shawl are two of her favorite pieces. MarySue felted the Peter Pan hats for a Port Angeles Playhouse production in 2021 and worked with 2nd graders at Dry Creek Elementary in 2023, helping them create the "Life Cycle of a Butterfly" in felt. MarySue co-owns Cabled Fiber & Yarn whose mission is to showcase the fiber arts and artists of the Olympic Peninsula and be a place to educate and congregate. MarySue teaches felting at the Store, Peninsula College, the Port Angeles Fine Arts Center and designs knitwear.

Program Experience

This experience gives students an opportunity to learn about the animals on the Olympic Peninsula that produce fibers and the history of fiber and fiber production - from raw fleece to clothing. In the class, students will examine local fleeces, card & dye the wool (with natural dyes), and utilize locally prepared roving and commercially prepared fibers to create a placemat through the wet felting process. The class can be shortened to just the preparation of the placemat in 90 minutes, or be offered as a multi-session class providing information on local fiber arts and the ancestral uses of local fiber and dye stuffs.

Curriculum Connections

Fiber arts provides students with hands-on experiences in creativity, fine motor skill development, and an understanding of various textile traditions.

Environmental Science: Learn about sustainability in fiber arts and the environmental impact of textile production. Encourage recycling and upcycling of textiles.

History and Culture: Explore the history and cultural significance of fiber arts around the world. Study traditional textile techniques from different cultures and time periods, and discuss how they are used in daily life and ceremonies.

Science: Understand the properties of various fibers, such as wool, cotton, silk, and synthetic materials, and discuss how different fibers are produced and processed.