Why are YOUTH CRAFT + CREATIVITY classes different?

OUR PHILOSOPHY sets us apart: The practice of making and exploring materials with hands and tools is at the core of the Worcester Center for Crafts educational experience. Craft brings together the intellect, the physical self, and the spirit of self-expression and inventiveness: it allows a student to build creative capacity and critical thinking. “I made this” is also a statement of empowerment and personal development reflecting self-confidence and satisfaction.

For students of any age learning craft, the practice of making, crosses art, aesthetics, science, history, math and design, imparting transferable knowledge and tools for innovative problem-solving. Even in an informal setting, an education in craft helps young students develop the habits of mind and skills needed as 21st century learners and workers—inquiry, perseverance, knowledge and respect for process, understanding of materials and their limits/no limits, testing hypotheses, translating two-dimensional thought into three-dimensional design, and having a great deal of fun.

OUR MOTIVATION is high: Because we acknowledge that many if not most students spend an inordinate amount of time looking at two-dimensional screens, we hope that craft classes at the Worcester Center for Crafts will assist students in understanding, translating, negotiating, navigating, and acknowledging the three-dimensionality of the world. This understanding is in relation to the students’ physical selves, the two-dimensional screens that they use to understand their worlds, and the materials they seek to master.

OUR INSTRUCTORS are experts: Artist Teachers at the Worcester Center for Crafts are encouraged to bring the full force of their own artistic skills and practice into the studio classroom. In addition, we ask that all artist teachers understand and embody our philosophy and be intentional about making connections between the craft skills they are teaching and other disciplines.

OUR COST is reasonable: We work hard to keep our tuition within reasonable reach and include all instructor fees, studio fees, materials and firing in the cost of tuition. For the hourly price of childcare, youth and teens can be guided expertly through discovering the processes of making, expressing, and problem solving. We acknowledge that this cost might be out of reach for some families and we are actively pursuing donors who will assist us in creating a scholarship program for Youth Craft+ Creativity classes.

Youth Craft + Creativity Mission: The mission of the Youth Craft + Creativity Program is to provide young people heads and hands learning (cognitive and experiential) at the intersections of craft, art and design with an emphasis on three-dimensional thinking, creativity, and the understanding of process. Our goal is to combine skill building with personal artistic growth and self-expression while building creative capacity in young people that spans play, life and learning.