



311 East Main Street
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Dear Principal or Head of School,

We at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art invite your teachers and students to visit the art museum **in-person** this academic year. Recognizing the impact COVID-19 had on schools, I hope you will partner with our education staff to help bring your curriculum to life through authentic, memorable experience with works of art. Thanks to the generosity of the Lincoln Financial Foundation, we are proud to offer this programming **for free** to both public and private schools in Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wells, and Whitley counties.

Our inquiry-based museum tours, facilitated by expert staff and docents, offer tangible learning experiences that meet both the State and National Visual Arts Standards. In addition, tours integrate important literacy skills and accommodate multiple learning styles as students discuss, analyze, and interpret artworks outside the classroom. These interactions have measurable educational benefits, recently recorded in a large-scale impact study conducted by the National Art Education Association (NAEA) and the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD). Key findings included a boost to creative and critical thinking as students asked more complex questions and were more accepting of multiple interpretations; skills that, while uniquely supported by museum programs, transfer across academic disciplines and beyond. While technology has made presenting and viewing artworks online easily accessible, we maintain that there is no alternative to experiencing art in person. By allowing them to look closely, share ideas, and discover personal connections, field trips stimulate students' curiosity and broaden both their life and learning experiences.

Art museums are inclusive spaces, and we endeavor to extend diverse, authentic art experiences to all. We understand that field trips may not be an option as teachers and students reacclimate themselves to in-class learning; therefore, we encourage you to collaborate with us through Gallery on Wheels, our program that brings the art museum visit to you! Through object-based learning, these curated, interdisciplinary collections integrate Visual Thinking Strategies to aid students' creative and critical thinking, analysis, and interpretation skills. In addition, all tour and outreach programs will be offered virtually.

Information about programs and resources is available online at fwmoa.org/school-programs/. Educators are available to present program offerings and answer questions during teacher meetings and trainings. Arrange a program or in-service presentation by calling or emailing Katy Thompson at 260.422.6467 or katy.thompson@fwmoa.org.

We look forward to collaborating with you as you work to broaden your students' learning experiences.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Shepard III'.

Charles A. Shepard III, President and CEO