



Sierra Duda, Grasshopper

Warwick High School, PA.

Commentary on Learning with Mr. Nixdorf

I couldn't have gotten any luckier as a student than to have Mr. Nixdorf as my teacher and mentor. Not only has he taught me all the skills of working with clay and how to build those skills on my own, but he has given me countless opportunities to be a part of the "ceramics world." Having conversations about popular artists, going to the local wood kiln and learning how to safely throw wood into the amazingly bright, hot kiln, borrowing books from his library, and getting to see him and his artist friends be passionate about ceramics have all deepened my love for this art and my desire to continue to create. I've had the privilege to be not only his student, but serve as Mr. Nixdorf's Teacher Assistant. With this responsibility, I've been given the opportunity to have a pottery wheel at my home for the entire school year. Having a wheel to use at home has given me the chance to improve my skills more than I ever imagined. I've also been taught how to recycle clay, mix glazes, fire kilns, and help other students learn. I'm so incredibly grateful to my teacher, Mr. Nixdorf, for the endless amount of knowledge he has shared with me and for helping me inflate my passion for ceramics.

Artist Statement

When working with clay there is no instant prodigy. Everything is a skill that can be learned and worked on. I love being able to create because almost any shape or piece I can dream up, I can make if I try.