September, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

My name is Laurie Harnish, I am your child’s new art teacher. I am extremely excited for an incredible year making, creating and learning about art. Teaching art is my passion and I come to Penn Manor with 16 years of experience teaching elementary art in York County. I currently live in and I am a graduate of Penn Manor. I received my Bachelor of Science and Masters of Art Education from Millersville University but also did studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, University of Hawaii, and Wilson College.

In addition to introducing myself, I wanted to tell you about a program I have used for many years called Artsonia. Artsonia is a digital student art gallery/museum. All artworks made by students are photographed and uploaded but only viewable to others if permission is granted by you. Also, students are given the opportunity to add titles and artist statements about their art. Family members, friends, and others can join your child’s fan club; great for those who live close or far. Fans can write comments about the artworks giving the child positive feedback. Note: any new fans and all comments must be approved by you prior to them being added/visible on the website.

The purpose for me creating digital portfolios is for students to see the growth over a period of years. For 1st graders, by the time they get to 6th grade they will have over 50 works of art in their portfolio. Students are so happy and proud when they have a new work published and when they get positive feedback from family and friends. They also enjoy reflecting and seeing works of art over a period of years, really showing their growth as artists. There is also a fundraising component where you can purchase gifts as an option if you choose. Students cannot view their art, add comments or titles without parental/guardian permission. I hope you see the benefits and will grant permission by completing the links #1 and #2.

#1 [Art Class: COPPA form required by Penn Manor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZIeLGHvt3wG0upEBuFxfk1kCXs5kVUKQdlzxilIAHQ_xNTw/viewform?usp=sf_link) (email from principal)

#2 [Artsonia Permission Form for adding new fans and approving comments](https://www.artsonia.com/members/register/artist.asp)

\*Student usernames and parent code (sent home with student)

Thank you for supporting the arts and your child. Please contact me if you have any questions at laurie.harnish@pennmanor.net

Sincerely-

Laurie M. Harnish

Art Educator for both,

Letort Elementary & Martic Elementary