Clay Doesn’t Have to be a Dirty Word!
Wayne Henry, Lebanon Jr. High Pottery

At Lebanon, our art classes are set up like college courses, semester classes with specialty areas, including Basic Art, Drawing, Painting, Weaving, and Pottery. Most students. Our students also have the choices of Foods and Nutrition, Guitar, Industrial Tech (Shop), Modern Technology (tech modules), Project Lead the Way (college prep program for engineering), Keyboarding, Computer Applications (web design, etc), Yearbook, three types of Band, three types of Choir, World Drumming.

I have taught Pottery 5 to 7 times a semester, with 47-50 minute classes, for the last 15 years. Almost 170 times! I still haven’t figured everything out, but here are just some of the successes.

I have included a copy of my project requirements for my current projects. I have projects in this specific order to progress through some of the basic techniques and then put it all together for more difficult projects.

Order of Operations
I focus on techniques primarily, with some attention to history and culture with specific projects.

There is a definite order for techniques. Pinch was the first clay technique done by early man and is still the primary method for Native American tribes.

I start out with pinch, coil, slabs, relief, carving in, sculpting and hollowing out, and work toward realism by the end of the semester. I have a progression of extra projects to encourage working thin, joining methods, repeating some of the key techniques.

Projects and time estimates for construction: Each class is 50 minutes (Painting is another day or two)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Time Estimate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Bank</td>
<td>3-4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coil Cup</td>
<td>3-4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slab Box</td>
<td>3-4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief Sculpture</td>
<td>2-3 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel/ Gargoyle</td>
<td>3-5 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter Box</td>
<td>4 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minion in costume</td>
<td>5 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief Mug</td>
<td>4 classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Buzz</td>
<td>4 classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Present Box</td>
<td>4 classes</td>
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</tbody>
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Tools and Alternatives:

Needle Tools- Pro Pin Tools $2.25 each
You can use paper clips, shish kabob sticks, pencils, popsicle sticks cut in a paper cutter, paint brush handles.
Loop Tools- $3.50-3.95
   Paper clips, wire attached to a brush handle.
Rolling Pins- $8.50-12
   Cut larger dowel rods, pvc pipe, get rolling pins from thrift shops.
Circle guides-
   Lids from butter tubs, cottage cheese, ice cream buckets, canning, cans.
Water tubs-
   Plastic tubs, ice cream buckets, etc. (Ask parents to collect)
Plastic Bags-
   Ziploc for smaller projects, Trash bags for larger. (Ask your custodians if they would spare a roll)
Table Covers-
   Newspapers, especially when painting (can tear and get into the clay, will burn out in the kiln), Canvas drop cloths for painting, cut to sections. Old T-shirt for each place with a cardboard insert, Cardboard.
Collection boards-
   Cut a 4’x8’ sheet of masonite into 20”x 24” squares, this is also great for drawing boards.
   Use lids from paper ream boxes.
Aprons/clothing protectors-
   Sam’s Club 3 pack- $12.95
   Old adult shirts, ask for donations, talk to sports teachers for old tourney shirts.
   Talk to the cafeteria director.
   Trash bags cut like a poncho.
   Rain ponchos.
Cutting line-
   30 to 50 pound test fishing line, tie a short dowel rod, or bread ties to the end for handle or use fishing bobbers, so it floats if you are at the wheel.
   Broken Guitar strings from your music supply store.
Forms for Coil cups-
   Frosting containers, food cans, wrapped in one wrap of newspaper.
Cutting table-
   Make a table 12 to 14 inches wide, create a frame with eye hooks about ¼ to ½ inch apart on two sides, stretch guitar strings to create a series of wires, like an egg slicer. Add hinges to the back side of the frame to the base.
Painting-
   I buy latex acrylic interior Color Place house paint from Walmart, $16.94 a gallon. I buy Taxi Cab Yellow, Bougainvilla Red, Olde Frontier Brown, Cool Cobalt Blue, white, black. I found the blue premixed along with white and black this last time.
   Put the paint in recycled ketchup bottles, keep these in a dish pan at one location. Have students come to you and you pour the amount they need.
   Start with a base coat, all solid one color, then paint details over the top. The first coat dries within 5-10 minutes because the clay soaks the moisture out of the paint. Details take longer to dry. I check brushes before students trade for smaller detail brushes.