



The Drawing Brigade

Information for School Districts

During a period of physical separation, nothing builds community connection quite like the arts. School districts are experiencing e-learning and virtual learning during the COVID-19 pandemic – some for the first time.

So how do we help guide our students during this time of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty? If our students are going to take something from this time, let us steer them toward empathy and compassion; let's encourage them to explore, lead, and create. We have heard many say: while the world falls apart, the people come together. We want to instill positivity and gratefulness into the hearts of our students while focusing on the importance of social-emotional health. How can we do this as a district, community, and nation? We would like to present – THE DRAWING BRIGADE – a way to care for our caregivers.

WHAT is the Drawing Brigade?

The Drawing Brigade is a healthcare outreach initiative created in response to the growing COVID-19 crisis. The mission is simple – use art to deliver joy and gratitude to our nation's healthcare workers during our current pandemic. Here's a [1-minute video](#) from authors/illustrators/co-founders Katherine Roy & Bethany Barton explaining more about it!

How does one participate?

It's easy to make something for the project – all it takes are these 3 steps:

1. **Make a drawing!** Create artwork or a project thanking doctors, nurses, scientists, and healthcare workers for their hard work and compassion.
2. **Take a photo of your artwork!** (Preferably well-lit, cropped and oriented correctly, so that it is easy to digitally post!)
3. **Send it** to this email address: drawingbrigade@gmail.com and they will post the work that they receive on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook at @drawingbrigade for creators and healthcare workers everywhere to see the THANK YOUs that other people are sharing.

Why does this matter to our schools?

We are all looking for meaningful ways to engage our learners, and what could be better than encouraging them to create art AND show gratitude to those showing bravery, selflessness, and perseverance?

Who can we get involved?

Your school staff members can all get involved in a variety of ways! You may look to your art teacher, librarian, and social worker to collaborate and guide your students' participation in the Drawing Brigade. The Drawing Brigade aligns with social-emotional goals as well as with ELA, technology, and more! Here is a list sharing just a few ways that you can incorporate this initiative into your e-learning curriculum:

- **Social-Emotional Learning** – Invite students to create a piece of thankful art that showcases their character strengths through any medium of their choice.
- **Library** – Read stories about helpers emerging during difficult times, or how to come together as a community to lend a hand. Feel free to contact The Librarian Bookends (Libbookends@gmail.com) who are part of our Drawing Brigade team if you're looking for read-aloud ideas!
- **Social Studies** – Assign a current events article related to COVID-19 in the healthcare field. Discuss then brainstorm creative ways to show thanks and appreciation.
- **ELA** – It is National Poetry Month! Have your students create a haiku, limerick, or free verse poem thanking someone in the health profession.
- **Music** – Have students create meditation music for healthcare workers to enjoy when they need to take a break and relax.
- **Technology** – A variety of apps and websites are at the fingertips of our learners during this time! Students can use the app or website of their choice to create digital art to share with the Drawing Brigade.
- **Art** – Art teachers have the important role of spearheading the "making" in this arts-focused community project. While reinforcing their art class content, they are able to position their students as artist-leaders; using artwork to help others in crisis.

What happens to the art that is sent in?

Each week any art sent to the Drawing Brigade will be digitally shared with the hospitals participating in the project so that they can display the artwork on their screens and/or print it out for their staff rooms! The first batch of artwork is already on display at two hospitals – one in Oregon and one in the Bronx in New York City!

We hope that you jump in and share The Drawing Brigade with your school! Let's spread joy, gratitude, community, and artwork. . .together!

–The Drawing Brigade Team–

drawingbrigade@gmail.com

Instagram, Facebook & Twitter: [@drawingbrigade](#)