



THINK ABOUT LEARNING...

Calligraphy

WITH KATE DARNELL

Calligraphy was the first class I ever taught, and it remains, after almost 30 years, one of my favorite skills to share with students of all ages.

Calligraphy can be introduced to children who have just learned cursive writing and to adults wanting to put something special into their own writing or a special project.

I teach one-session workshops that introduce basic pen technique with one alphabet style and longer classes of several sessions that cover a variety of styles and techniques.

I tailor a course to fit your organization's goals, time-frame, age or skill level.

For more information, or to arrange a calligraphy presentation or class at your school or meeting, contact me at:

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For a poet, a tree is a symbol for a word.

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD

Calligraphy Presentations

During a visit to a school or group, I offer different options for presentations, demonstrations, workshops and classes. What I do in a particular classroom or presentation will depend on the age, the focus of the class, the size of the group and the time available. Because of the size of the materials and tools I use and the importance of having time to answer questions, I encourage you to limit group sizes to no more than 30 students. My presentation is not useful or enjoyable for very large assemblies.

For young elementary school students

A short demonstration of about 20-30 minutes followed questions and answers can be a nice follow-up celebration after first learning cursive. Because the size of some of the materials and tools I use is small, I encourage you to limit group size so that students can, at some point gather around a table and watch pen on paper.

Longer presentations

Older children can be attentive longer, and a single hour presentation might include a demonstration of pen technique, followed by some hands-on practice using calligraphy felt-tip pens.

Again, in order facilitate some one-on-one help, group size should be limited, and I encourage classroom teachers to learn along with their students, so that they might continue to help them.

Sometimes it is useful to have two classroom sessions

A time to ask questions is always valuable to children and I try to stay flexible with any formal presentation to accommodate both the attention span of the children and questions they might have.

For older students and adults

I will craft a presentation to fit the goals of the group. I do one day workshops of varying lengths. Options include

- A 2-hour introduction to calligraphy using felt-tip calligraphy pens to learn and practice one calligraphic style (usually Italic). I usually include a display of original work, books and traditional calligraphy tools with this type of presentation.
- A full day workshop introducing several letter-styles and using traditional pens and ink. With more time, students have more opportunity to practice their new skill, and I have time to demonstrate more techniques and tools. This type of workshop can include an informal brown-bag or pot-luck lunch/discussion.
- A week-end workshop of two days is a concentrated course, best suited for those who are seriously interested and who can focus for long periods of time, but I love teaching this sort of group.
- Scheduling several weekly classes of about two hours scheduled in advance

Materials

These workshops include hands-on activity, materials may need to be purchased in advance or a supply fee paid for me to provide pens, printed hand-outs and other materials.

Expectations

Teachers and organizers should let me know any expectations they might have about the kind of presentation from which their students or members would benefit and what they would enjoy.

Group Size

Because of the size of the materials and tools I use and the importance of having time to answer questions and give individual help during hands-on activity, I encourage you to limit group sizes to between 15 & 20 students for workshops.

Preparing for the visit

Students will get more out of the presentation if they are introduced to the subjects ahead of time. Here are some suggestions.

- Especially for young students, read a book about a scribe or show examples of old manuscripts. Show examples of Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and Hebrew calligraphy traditions.
- Display books about letters in the library or a show-case
- Have students write or choose a short poem that is meaningful to them and that they can write in calligraphy.

Scheduling a presentation for your group

I have a busy schedule that juggles studio and teaching time, so it is best to allow plenty of notice for planning a visit to your organization. This is especially important for outside the Lansing area.

To inquire about a presentation, you can call me at: 517/332-6733, or send questions to: kate@kldarnell.com

Fees and expenses

Fees for presentations will vary with consideration given to the total length of time spent with the group, travel distances, materials and preparation needed. But here are some estimated fee guidelines to help you start to plan. (Please contact me for confirmation of this information.)

- A full day: \$500 - \$600
- A half school day: \$300
- A single one hour presentation: \$50 - \$100
- Presentations outside the Lansing area may require additional compensation for travel time and/or overnight accommodations.

I can send you a worksheet to help organize your requirements and answer both your questions and mine.

If there are any forms required by your school or organization please make sure I get them in advance so that confirmation and processing of fee payment can be smoothly resolved. I can also provide an invoice in advance.

If I am supplying tools or materials for a workshop, a per-student supply fee may need to be paid in advance to cover the cost of purchasing supplies.

Fees are the responsibility of the host organization. Outside the Lansing area compensation for travel time and, in some cases, overnight accommodations may also be an expense. With this in mind I encourage groups to coordinate with one another and I will make an effort to schedule myself so that travel expenses can be shared.

Other Presentations

I am also an illustrator and enjoy speaking to all ages about this aspect of my work. Presentations can include short talks on the process of illustrating a book and/or hands-on workshops on design and drawing techniques. Information about the books I have illustrated is at www.SleepingBearPress.com

My Studio

I have a studio in East Lansing, Michigan where I create illustration and custom calligraphic work for a variety of clients. I do not teach out of my studio, as its small size does not allow it to be used as a classroom