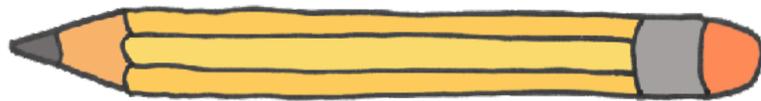


DEEP SPACE
SPARKLE

ART SUPPLIES
for the
ART ROOM



ART PAPER

Sulphite Paper:

Sulphite paper is also referred to as construction paper, but don't be confused. It's not the cheap construction paper found in the craft aisle. Sulphite is a process that extracts the lignin from wood chips and produces pure cellulose fibers. This means that sulphite paper is a smooth, white and inexpensive drawing paper that is perfect in any art room.

I use sulphite paper in every art project that uses tempera paint, markers, oil pastel, collage, etc. The only time I don't use sulphite paper is when I am teaching a watercolor blending lesson or using acrylic paints.

Watercolor Paper:

For all my watercolor art projects, I use school grade 90 lb watercolor paper. It is inexpensive and comes in packs of 50 or 100. I use the cheapest school-grade product I can find and it works great for my needs. Just a little "tooth" can go a long way in teaching kids the difference between regular paper and watercolor paper. Instead of soaking into construction paper, watercolor paper allows the paint to sit on top for a while and mingle with the other colors. I highly encourage you to purchase this paper for your classroom. It's important to note that it is sometimes cheaper to buy large sheets (24" x 36") and cut them down to manageable pieces rather than books of pre-sized sheets.

Your Paper Checklist

- 1 box of 24, 50-sheet packs of white Tru-Ray Sulphite paper for the first half of the year (400 students)
- 1-5 packs each of the following construction/sulphite paper colors: black, brown, red, green, yellow, purple, turquoise, blue, pink.
- 200-400 sheets of watercolor paper. I would suggest 12" x 18" sheets. If they are too big for some art projects, you can cut them in half. I buy the paper in packs of 100.

PAINTS

Liquid Tempera Paint

I use [Crayola Washable Paint](#) almost every day in my art room. I strongly urge you to buy a pack of primary colors, secondary colors plus white and black. Every project of mine that uses tempera paint, uses one or more of these colors.

I stock up on double the amount of white, blue, yellow, red and black. These are my main colors and I try never to run out of them. To round out my colors, I buy orange, brown, flesh, purple, turquoise and green. I keep my paints in a cupboard and when I need to use them, I do one of the following: squeeze into "muffin" palettes for single lesson use or pre-mix colors and store in clear, plastic containers with lids for multiple lesson use.

Adding a bit of water to the liquid tempera is helpful to extend the usage and to make the paint spreadable.

Puck or Cake Tempera Paint

The ease of prep for these beauties is unsurpassed. I love being able to set the tempera cake palettes on the tables in five minutes and I equally love how easy it is to put them away. I would highly recommend this product for anyone who has little ones or has very little prep time. The only drawback is that the color dries to a chalky finish. They just aren't as bright as liquid tempera but they are a close second. It's important to note that some brands have a better finish than others.

Watercolor Paints

Liquid watercolors are an essential part of my classroom. They offer superior color and intensity that you can control. Read about liquid watercolors from my blog for more reasons why you should invest in these paints. For glitter paint options, I prefer glitter liquid watercolor. Anything else, such as glitter glue just doesn't work well for me.

When I want children to understand how colors blend or I want the children to control their own color choices, I use the cake or tray watercolor paints. I bought a Prang 16-color Trays and I love them. I know in some countries, watercolor paints only exist in tubes. If I had to deal with this, I would create my own trays by purchasing some empty trays with covers, squeezing a rainbow of paints into each compartment and allowing them to dry to a hard finish. Then, they could be used in the same way.

BRUSHES & PALETTES

Brushes

I have a variety of brushes in my classroom and they are the result of years of teaching art. I love the plastic handle brushes the best. The size and comfort of the brushes works really well for all grade levels. I use the round ones more often than the flat tip but it's important to have both. I like to have some very small (no. 2) brushes for outlining, medium brushes (no. 4-6) for medium paint jobs and large (no. 8-10) for larger surface areas. I use these brushes for both tempera and watercolor.

You must also have some type of large brush for big painting jobs like painted paper. Try to buy some nice ones as they will last for many years with proper care. Most art supply catalogs have a variety of styles and price ranges available.

Palettes

I keep 18 plastic palettes in my storage cupboard for everything from holding liquid tempera paint to baby food bottles filled with liquid watercolors. For liquid tempera, I use these palettes when I'm teaching a double-loading project or when I need the kids to share paint. I also buy packs of clear, plastic pint-sized containers and lids from our local restaurant supply store. I use these all the time. I especially love them for mixing tempera paint colors. I set 2-3 brushes in each container and children use these at their tables. Once the lesson is over, I place the lid on each container and store the paint. I use the same containers all year for the same color. At the end of the year, I wash them out and set them to dry for the next year. Of course, you don't even need to purchase these. You can ask parents to save their sour cream or yogurt containers for you. I do, however, like the clear ones best as it allows me to see the paint color. In California, I shop at Smart and Final for these containers plus small salsa-style containers for beads, liquid watercolor and even underglaze.

Your Paint & Brushes checklist:

- Primary, Secondary, White and Black [liquid tempera paint](#)
- 1-2 sets of [Liquid Watercolors](#) (8 fl oz) (6-8 colors)
- 1 set per child [16-color Watercolor Trays](#) (if you can afford it, buy 2 sets per child)
- [Puck or Cake Tempera](#)
- [Brushes](#) (This is a good brand so buy whatever you can afford)
- [6-well Plastic palette](#)
- [Gold Metallic Tempera Paint](#)

DRAWING & COLORING TOOLS

Pastels

I buy a class pack of oil pastels every two-three years but every year I buy extra individual cases of black and white. I use a ton of black oil pastel in my art room so I need the extra pieces.

Chalk Pastels

The last time I purchased chalk pastels was two years ago and I think I can go one more year. I only do one or perhaps two chalk projects per year with each class, so it's not a product I use everyday. I also buy the most inexpensive brands as they have always worked well for me. It probably wouldn't have hurt to buy better brands given how often I use the product. The chalk pastels I use are very dusty, which is a factor to consider if this concerns you. The more expensive the product, the less dusty they will be.

Markers

I buy Sharpie brand waterproof black pens in a fine point and super-fine. I usually buy 36 of each and often will need to replenish by mid-year. The bigger tip pens do not last as long as the finer tip. I suppose it's because they get used more often.

For basic marker rendering, I use Crayola broad tip markers: cheap and reliable. If you have a bigger budget, Prisma color markers are hands-down the best.

Woodless Colored Pencils

I love my [Koh-I-Noor woodless](#) set. Great color intensity. Read about them on [this post](#)

Your Coloring Tools Checklist

- Oil Pastels: 1 class pack of or at least 2 packs per table group. Purchase extra black and white. I buy about 10 packs of the 12-box black oil pastels to last the year.
- Chalk pastels: 2, 48-color packs per table group. For me, that's 12 boxes.
- Black Sharpie or other Waterproof Markers in broad and fine tips
- Markers: Crayola Marker class pack.

QUICK LINKS

- [Tru-Ray Sulphite/Construction Paper](#)
- [90-lb Watercolor Paper](#)
- [Crayola Liquid Tempera Paint](#)
- [Crayola Tempera Cakes](#)
- [Liquid watercolors](#)
- [Crayola Watercolor Pans/Trays](#)
- [Prismacolor Colored Pencils](#) These are great pencils but I don't have the budget to purchase them. Instead, I like the Koh-I-Noor, which are slightly more affordable and don't require as much sharpening.
- [Koh-I-Noor Colored Pencils](#)
- [Plastic 6-well muffin palettes](#)
- [Tissue Paper](#)
- [Plastic handle brushes](#)
- [Sargent Class Pack Pastels](#)
- [Sakura Oil Pastels](#) Van Gogh brand is also very good.
- [Crayola Markers](#) Just love these guys. They have been a staple in my art room for 10 years.
- [Sargent Metallic Paint](#) You must have some gold paint! You can use it for so many projects and a little goes a long way.
- [Metallic Oil Pastels](#) Another must-have.
- [Metallic Crayons](#) I use these occasionally but they are cheap and fun.
- [Blick Acrylic Paints](#) I don't use acrylics very often because I love the ease and simplicity of tempera and watercolor paints, but I like to keep some on hand for canvas projects

**This document contains affiliate links to Blick Art Supplies. These are the products I purchase and use in my art room. If a link is broken, please visit <https://www.dickblick.com> and search for product.*