

Foelber Pottery Intermediate Classes

Hey, we're glad you want to continue learning about pottery!

Here is some info to help you have a fun, easy studio experience.

The Studio Classroom:

Classes are 2 hours. We may open the doors early and you are welcome to come in then. Please allow the teachers to do the necessary prep work and/or finish their own work before the class is actually scheduled to begin. Toward the end of class please finish working and clean up in a timely manner. We appreciate this greatly!

You are given one bag of Balcones or Armstone clay per month. Please do not bring in your own clay. No other clay will work with our recycling system and kiln firings. If you use more than one bag of clay in a month there is an extra usage fee (see below).

You must have your own set of basic tools. They cost about \$10. Tools can be purchased at The Ceramic Store, Hobby Lobby, Michaels or Texas Art Supply. You'll have fun choosing tools you like!

Check out the Ceramic Store on our website links page.

You will be given two shelves with your name on them. One will be for wet work in progress. One will be for bisque and finished glaze work. Please do not ask us to search for your individual pieces as this takes us away from our teaching duties. If pieces are not on your shelf they are drying, being fired, or you forgot to sign them. SIGN your work legibly and it will be on your shelf when it is ready.

We like to have a fun, loose environment but please be considerate of others. Give other folks time to talk and ask questions. Put tools and clay away and leave the studio clean and organized.

The Glaze Room:

We want you to be successful with your pottery and glazing can "make or break" a piece.

Stir, stir, and stir the glazes before you use them and then every 5 minutes. If the glaze looks gloppy on the stir-stick or on your hand then it isn't stirred enough. You should be able to see the lines of your knuckles when you dip your hand in the glaze. PLEASE, ask the teacher to check the glazes if you are unsure of the thickness before dipping. That's what we are here for!

Glaze layering is very tricky and takes practice. Keep it simple in the beginning. PLEASE keep a notebook of your glazing. You'll be happy you did when you get the glorious piece out of the kiln and everyone asks what colors you used!

The glaze room gets messy quickly. Please do your part to wipe up glaze spills on the buckets, table, around the sink. Clean tools and put them away. TURN OFF WAX BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM (this is a fire hazard).

Monthly Payment:

Intermediate students pay \$145 the first class of each month. That entitles you to four classes (sometimes 5) in this fully equipped studio with experienced pottery instructors. There is no pro-rating for missed classes. A missed class may be made-up in another class in that month, coming to the independent studio on Saturday afternoon, or taking home extra clay to create cool hand-built pieces.

The monthly payment of \$145 also allows you a maximum monthly firing space of 12"x12"x12" (about one bag of clay). If you produce more than this amount you have a few options: try editing your work and recycling the clay, OR take your time with trimming and details to produce higher quality work, OR pay an extra material/firing fee. We charge 40 cents a square inch for extra firing space in a month or \$45 for one extra bag of clay. We are happy to explain this in more detail. A diagram is posted in the studio by the payment box.

Independent Studio. Saturdays from 1:00-4:00pm

We know that a two hour class once a week is sometimes not enough time to get your creative clay ideas completed. The 2nd studio classroom is open on Saturday afternoons for people who are trying to *complete a project* or want to *practice* throwing skills. ***After three months as an intermediate student at our studio you may attend the open studio as you wish.***

Please follow these rules:

1. The cost to use the open studio is \$5 per day (unless it is for a make-up class). This pays for the utilities (*electricity, water, etc.*), recycling of clay, wear & tear on the equipment, and general maintenance. Imagine having a studio in your garage and walking into it and having all the clay ready to use, tools, the wheel clean, and someone is going to clean and mop the place after you leave! That's worth \$5 bucks.
2. You are on your own. The teachers are not being paid at this time. We assume you are self-directed at this stage and able to follow the studio rules.
3. The Glaze Room is closed during open studio. Glazing is only allowed during class with teacher supervision.
4. If you want to save the pieces you have made during open studio you must wrap them yourself. This means you may have to unwrap your piece during class time to let it continue drying. Again, be self-reliant. The teachers come in on Sunday morning to wrap the Saturday morning class's pots, but will not return Sunday evening to wrap open studio work. You will also be charged an extra fee if your work for the month exceeds the allotted 12"x12"x12" space.
5. You must recycle the clay scraps and leave the studio clean and organized. The last person out must turn off the lights, AC, and lock the front door.

Please note that the studio may occasionally (but rarely) be closed on Saturday afternoon if a special event has been reserved. Check the calendar on the intermediate classes webpage.