

GARRISON ART CENTER

Mentor Program 2010

An independent study in the arts

Dear Teachers, Parents, and Students,

I am writing to you as the new coordinator of **Garrison Art Center's Mentor Program**. I have been a teaching artist with the Art Center for several years and have also enjoyed participating as a mentor in the Mentor Program. As expected, we are gearing up for another productive season of collaboration between our professional artist community and high school students. Our selection process takes serious young artists and pairs them with the mentor that best meets the needs of the student, based on their interests and area of discipline. This unique pairing has enabled students to challenge themselves in the further exploration of a medium that they already know but would like to push to another level of proficiency and discovery. The experience for both artist and student has proven to be very rewarding, and the work being produced has been very exciting.

This letter includes an application for students to fill out, sign, and return in a timely manner. Please be reminded that this program is designed for students who can work independently and follow through on their commitment.

Applications are due November 20, 2009, to allow me sufficient time for phone interviews with each student and the subsequent pairing with the appropriate artist. This year, due to budget cuts, there will be a nominal **application fee of \$25**.

We launch the program at a mandatory **"Meet and Greet" session on Thursday, December 18, 2009 from 6-7:30 at Garrison Art Center**. This is a valuable meeting when students and mentors meet for the first time to discuss logistics of when and where they will meet during the next three months. This is also an opportunity to meet the other students and mentors who are participating. I will be there to give an overview of the program and to answer any further questions.

Also keep in mind that Garrison Art Center will again be hosting **Portfolio Support Day** in the spring. For many of the students who participate in the Mentor Program, this event will complement and bolster their efforts. This is an open event for any high school student at any level of artistic interest. In the past we have had representatives from SUNY New Paltz, School of visual Arts, Pratt Institute and several local professional artists in attendance. I will be sending out the flyer with details early next semester, so stay tuned and we look forward to working with your students this winter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Smith Gioia