

Fiber and Fabric Project

Greetings!

My name is Marcia Martin and I am an art teacher at Leavitt Area High School in Turner. I have a fiber arts program here, called Fiber and Fabric, that is starting to pick up some momentum. I teach a sampling of many fiber processes from handcrafted paper (we made it from corn this year my vats are stewing as we speak) to sewing, knitting, crocheting, dyeing, felting, and spinning. I was lucky enough to get some funding this year through Maine Ag in the Classroom for my "Meet the Flock Project." This project connects high school students with fiber farmers and processors. The end goal is to teach students about fiber farming in Maine and help students realize the farm to product connections. This year students are visiting area farms and learn about raising fiber animals. We buy fleeces from the farm and then bring it to an area processor where its washed and turned into roving. We then are making and using drop spindles to create yarn which we will dye and turn into handcrafted projects.

Lindy Gallop of Swiftwater Farm and Pogo of Friends Folly Farm have been wonderful partners for this. I, however, am looking for some help. I want to find people that may like to be a part of this project. Specifically people who would be passionate about educating youth. I'm looking for people who would like to open up their farms and share experiences with teenage students. Lindy is donating some black and brown fleeces, but I would also like about 25 pounds of light colored fleeces. I do have some funding to pay (less costs mean I get more equipment for my room - looms, spinning wheels, bobbins, etc.) I'd like helpful resources because I'm learning a lot right with my students. I'm looking for ways that my students can get their work they are doing in my room to the masses. We've just created handouts dealing with topics in fiber arts and some of them are REALLY great. I have 55 students in my program and kids are getting more and more excited about what's happening. I want to keep the forward momentum going and am reaching out for help.

I know this is a lot for an email and I realize this comes as you are leaving for a bit. Feel free to call my cell 212-6128 or email marcia.martin@rsu52.us. Thank you again.

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