Art-Mrs. Landry

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

CERAMICS VOCABULARY

I. CLAY BODIES/ TYPES OF CLAY:

A. White Earthenware
B. White Stoneware
C. Terracotta
D. Porcelain
E. Red Earthenware

What type of clay do we use in our art class? ***LOW-FIRE WHITE EARTHENWARE***

II. CONSISTENICES/ STAGES: (In order of wettest to driest)

A. **Plastic**- (plasticity, can be modeled like play-dough)
- Extremely fresh or soft clay.
- Doesn't need to be scored & slipped to join pieces.
- Has the ability to be modeled or shaped without cracking.

B. **Leather hard**- (same flexibility as a slice of cheese)
- Much of the moisture has evaporated and shrinking has just ended, but the clay is not totally dry.
- Best stage for carving and burnishing ("polishing clay").
- Must use scoring & slipping during this stage at attach or join pieces.

C. **Bone-dry**- (resembles the texture and color of a bone)
- Clay objects have lost all moisture; they are 98% moisture free.
- Pale gray in color, appears chalky.
- Cannot attach or join clay during this stage.

III. CATEGORIES/ FIRING:

A. ***Greenware***-
- Unfired pottery or sculpture, dry clay objects.
- Appears green in color, due to wetness.

B. ***Bisque ware***-
- Clay that has been fired one time; unglazed clay.
- Often appears pink in color (when using white earthenware or stoneware).
- Bisque firing- the process of firing ware at a low temperature.

C. ***Glaze ware***-
- Clay objects that have been painted with glaze and then fired.

IV. HAND BUILDING METHODS:

A. **Pinching-** (pinch pot) an ancient hand building method of forming clay by pushing out the walls to create a vessel.

B. **Coiling (coil pot)** - an ancient hand building method of forming pottery by building up walls with ropelike rolls of clay and then smoothing over the joints.

C. **Slab (slab construction)** - a large flat piece of clay formed by rolling, a technique used in hand building, in which forms are created by joining flat pieces of clay. The pieces are thinned with a rolling pin or slab roller.

V. OTHER FORMING METHODS:

A. **Wheel Thrown**- Clay vessels or objects created on a potters wheel, by the centrifugal force of the wheel spinning and the force of the hands pushing and pulling on clay.

VI. TECHINQUES & SURFACES:

A. **Slip**- (Works like glue)

- Clay in a liquid suspension; used for adhering pieces.
- Used in making ceramic objects by casting.
- Used to create decoration by painting or slip-trailing.

B. **Scoring**- (Roughing or scratching clay)

- Technique used for attaching two pieces of clay together.
- Surfaces are scratched with a tool, then slip is added between the two, then they are joined firmly together.

C. **Slip and Score**-

VII. GLAZE:

A. **Glaze**- (A thin coating of glass on the surface of pottery)

- A liquid composed of glass particles, which is applied to ceramic ware.
- During the firing process the ware is fired to a temperature at which the glaze ingredients will melt together to form a glassy surface.
- Glaze can be applied by brushing, pouring, or spraying ware.

B. **Dry footing**- removing all of the glaze from the bottom of a ceramic ware before firing.

C. **Types of glaze**-

1. Gloss/Satin- glazes with a shiny or glossy surface.
2. Matte- glaze with a dull or rough surface.
3. Stains- A diluted coloring oxide like cobalt or copper used to produce a color, similar to watercolors.
4. Velvet under glaze- pure color glaze, has a matte finish.

VIII. FIRING:

A. **Kiln**- the oven like structure clay objects are fired in.

- Low-fire-
- High-fire-

B. **Maturing point (maturity)-** Amount of "heat work" needed to correctly mature clay or glazes. The temperature or time at which a clay body develops the desirable characteristics of maximum non-porosity and hardness; or the point at which the glaze ingredients enter into a complete fusion.

C. **Thermal shock**- the stress to which ceramic material is subjected, when sudden changes occur in the heat during firing or cooling. Can cause cracks, fractures, or breaks.

Vessel Diagram-