

The Classical Arts

Grounds Tour: Classical Elements found at Saint-Gaudens

Pergola and Little Studio-Diana

Pan Garden and Formal Gardens-Pan, Mercury

Farragut-allegorical figures of Courage and Loyalty

Shaw-allegorical figure of angel of death, Latin verse, Roman numerals

Atrium and New Gallery-allegorical figure of Victory, coins

Activities

- 1) **Allegory in sculpture, art, and literature.** Discuss Saint-Gaudens' allegorical figures in the Farragut and Victory. Ask students to name allegorical figures from literature or mythology. If you were being commissioned to create a sculpture for your school and decided to add an allegorical figure, what would the sculpture be of, and what virtue would you symbolize in the allegorical figure? .

Write about and sketch your response.

- 2) **Latin and Greek.** Translate the Latin phrase on the Shaw Memorial. Write a short Latin phrase to portray what art means to you. Create a design for your logo to be used as letterhead stationary for your art department or school, or create your design in a circle, with your phrase encircling it for a coin design. In art class, create a woodcut or T-shirt design from your logo.
- 3) **Greek Architecture.** Discuss and draw differences in architectural elements. Plan a formal garden including walkways, fountains, art, and plantings. Consider long-range views, sheltered places, etc. Using graph paper and image cards of flowers, bushes, and trees for design purposes, draw out your plan. Focus on low, medium, and tall plantings, when things bloom, and the colors they display.
- 4) **Theater.** Perform a choral reading of an Aesop's fables or a short play by the Temple in Greek chiton, togas, and tunics. Teachers may use the temple (burying place of the Saint-Gaudens family) as a backdrop to videotape your student-written plays that you bring with you.
- 5) **Classical Figures and Sculptures.** In sculpture, the gods and goddess are masculine, muscled figures, with wet drapery clothes. The gods are based on human anatomy, but are bigger, stronger, well muscled, and perfectly proportioned. Give two different colors of markers and balls of string to pairs of students and a chart on classical figures. Have them measure their own heads on string, and see how many of them make up their own height. Are you a god or goddess?
- 6) **Gold Leaf.** Apply gold leaf to a found object from nature picked up on the trails.
- 7) **Physical Education.** Create your own Olympic event on the spot; assign athletes, fans, and judges. Sports could include: Juggling, relay races, somersaulting down the hill.
- 8) **Mythology and Horticulture.** Tells stories of Diana and Acliptis. Identify medicinal plants within the formal and cutting gardens and make scientific drawings. Have students tell and illustrate their own interpretation of the above stories.

