

When I look back upon where I've come from and where I am going, education lies at the core of everything. I was so fortunate to have had tremendous educators in my life who challenged me and pushed me to do my best while growing up and I knew from a young age that I wanted to be like them someday. Fast forward to today and those dreams of becoming an educator came to fruition. Having just wrapped up my eighth year of teaching, my ideas, projects, and students have all changed over that time, but my desire to continue to provide a high quality art education to students hasn't.

I believe that an accessible, well-rounded education for all is one of my most foundational beliefs. Education has the ability to open doors and provides opportunities that otherwise might not exist. This process of acquiring knowledge, skills, and values makes us who we are.

During my eight years as an art educator, I have worked hard to create a safe and comforting classroom environment where students are encouraged to play, experiment, create, and take risks. We focus a lot on art history and how art has changed over time and shaped our relationship with the world around us. We use a contemporary-focused curriculum as well that allows students to see art as a potential career, not just something that was made in the past. This allows them to see art that is

relevant to them and it's dealing with mediums, topics, and ideas that are happening right now in our world.

I've also been fortunate enough to serve at both the state and national levels. For the Wisconsin Art Education Association (WAEA), I served two years as the Membership Chair, two years as the President-Elect, two years as the President, and two years as the Past-President. I also served two years as the National Art Education Association's (NAEA) Elementary Division Director-Elect and have just recently stepped into the role as the Elementary Division Director. While these volunteer roles have been demanding of my time, the juice has always been worth the squeeze. I've had the opportunity to meet, share, and work with so many amazing educators from across Wisconsin and the U.S.

I am a passionate educator who believes that education is the key to a successful and fulfilling life. I have dedicated my career to providing high-quality art education to students of all ages. I am committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment where students can explore their creativity and express themselves through art. I am also committed to providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, career, and life. I am confident that I can make a

positive difference in the lives of my students, and I look forward to continuing my career in education.