

From where I stand, education is the foundation of everything. Looking back, I see the immense impact it's had on my journey. Growing up, I was blessed with phenomenal educators who challenged me to excel. Their influence ignited a spark within me – a desire to follow in their footsteps. Today, after eight fulfilling years as an art educator, I can proudly say that dream has become my reality. While my methods, projects, and students have evolved over time, my core mission remains unchanged: to provide exceptional art education and empower young minds.

At its core, I believe in accessible, inclusive, and well-rounded education for all. It's the key that unlocks doors of opportunity, possibilities that might otherwise remain out of reach. This journey of acquiring knowledge, skills, and values shapes who we become.

For nine years, I've cultivated a vibrant art room where students can explore, experiment, and take creative risks. We delve into art history, discovering how art has shaped cultures and our understanding of the world. But the journey doesn't end there. Our contemporary-focused curriculum allows students to see art as a dynamic conversation happening right now. They encounter mediums, topics, and ideas that resonate with them, sparking a connection to art as a potential lifelong pursuit, not just a relic of the past.

Beyond the classroom, I've actively contributed to the art education community. Serving on the Wisconsin Art Education Association (WAEA) board for eight years, including two years as President, allowed me to champion accessibility and innovation in art education for all students. Currently, I am the National Art Education Association's (NAEA) Elementary Division Director. These volunteer roles, while demanding, have been incredibly rewarding. I've had the privilege of collaborating with exceptional educators across the country, fostering a network that fuels my own teaching practice and inspires positive change in the field.

Art education ignites a passion for lifelong learning, and I'm dedicated to fostering that spark in my students. With a focus on creativity and self-expression, I cultivate a safe space where students of all ages can explore their artistic potential. My curriculum equips them not only with technical skills but also with the critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that are essential for success in college, careers, and life. Witnessing their growth and confidence is the true reward. I'm confident that my dedication can make a lasting impact on their journeys.