

I have a twin sister with whom I am very close, and we have always been great friends, but I remember thinking when I was younger what was one thing that made us different. For me, it was my love of visual art because my art classes were one place, I felt like I could express myself, and I grew in confidence because I became very good at drawing. My family was very supportive of all the arts. Besides art, I also played trumpet in the band, played violin in the orchestra, and sang in the choir. Later in my professional career, I became involved in the theater arts by designing and creating costumes for high school productions and our local community theater. The combined experiences in those areas continued to help me creatively express my unique voice and help me grow as an artist.

By high school, I knew I wanted to take a career path in the arts and decided in my undergraduate to pursue a major in communication design. Working professionally as a production manager, graphic, and web designer taught me the value of visual skills in principles and elements of design, time management, problem-solving, and communication. Because of the positive art experience that I have had over my life and career, I want to pass on my love of art to my students and help them to express themselves creatively in their lives.

I believe art education is essential because it teaches students to express their unique voice creatively through the arts. The arts help students grow in confidence and feel positive about themselves as they explore the artistic process of making art. As an educator, I believe in including choice-based projects that give students the ability for flexibility in the artistic process, medium, and concepts. I believe in building students' visual skills through learning principles and elements of design, management of time, problem-solving, and communication. I believe my art curriculum should reflect the diversity of students in my classroom, and I will include a diversity of artists and themes.