

# BENJAMIN P. NELSON

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My years of experience as a practicing fine artist, dedication to sharing the many benefits of the arts with students, and enthusiasm for designing diversified curriculum and techniques to better serve each student's individual learning and creative needs makes me the perfect addition to your education team. Furthermore, my extensive educational background in the fine arts has established a foundation of knowledge for me to use in developing engaging and challenging art education curriculum.

As far back as I can remember, the arts have been a means of expression, source of confidence, and tool for expansion in my life. My dedication to my studio practice has taught me the value of embracing unexpected outcomes, self and peer assessment, and perseverance. I often use my personal professional art work as a catalyst for informing my lesson plans. When I discover something new and interesting in my studio, I think about how it can be integrated in the classroom. I believe the arts have the capacity to act as a bridge to other disciplines and naturally encourage students to explore other areas of study. My goal is to help students realize their own creativity, the ways in which it can enrich their lives, and encourage a continuous exploration of such creativity. I also hope to encourage students to expand beyond their creative comfort zones, shed their fears of judgement, and embrace failure as an experience from which to learn.

In my teaching experiences thus far, I have shown flexibility and adaptability in the classroom. I believe offering students a certain amount of freedom, ownership and choice in their assignments is essential. My goal is for my lesson plans to act as catalysts for independent expression and creative direction rather than as a set of boundaries for the students to work within. I derive a meaningful and rewarding sense of accomplishment when I see that a student has interpreted an assignment in a new and innovative way. Establishing adaptability within my curriculum also lends itself to creating a symbiotic relationship between myself and my students in the classroom, one in which new ideas are embraced, developed and shared. Furthermore, I have also found success in channeling the creativity of children with special needs by incorporating an element of differentiation in my lesson plans.

My goal is to use innovative solutions to educational challenges to help students realize their creative potential and then use this as a means of confidence to benefit themselves, their communities and their future. With the utmost enthusiasm, I believe my background in art education and classroom management, experience as a professional practicing artist, and dedication to innovation in the art room will be a valuable asset to your school and community.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Nelson