



vaea

Virginia **Art** Education Association

Art on the Horizon

Versa , 8th Grade,
Brookland Middle School,
Michelle McGrath

Fall 2023



Our Mission

is to promote, support and advance visual arts education through leadership, professional development and service

The VAEA News Magazine

is a publication of the Virginia Art Education Association, and is distributed to members three times a year: January, June and September.

Articles

are submitted by the Executive Board and Extended Board members. Contact your Regional President, Division Representative, or appropriate Affiliate Liaison to offer news or photographs for inclusion in their reports.

Contact Information

See page 26.

Student Art

Members send submissions directly to Sean Collins, News Magazine Editor at news magazine.vaea@gmail.com

Vendors

wishing to advertise should contact Peggy Wood, Executive Secretary, at wood.vaea@gmail.com

Submission Deadlines

Winter Issue: December 15

Spring/Summer Issue: March 15

Fall/Conference Issue: July 15



@VAartED

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President's Message

Holly Bess Kincaid

Art education has always been a reflection of the times, constantly evolving and adapting to the emerging trends and technologies. As we look towards the horizon, we are witnessing a new era in art education, where cutting-edge technologies like digital art or artificial intelligence (AI) are merging with traditional art forms.

AI is creating paintings, writing stories, and composing music. It has the ability to analyze vast amounts of data and generate new and innovative ideas. This opens up endless possibilities for students to explore and experiment with their creativity. AI can be used as a tool to enhance traditional art forms, allowing students to push the boundaries of their craft.

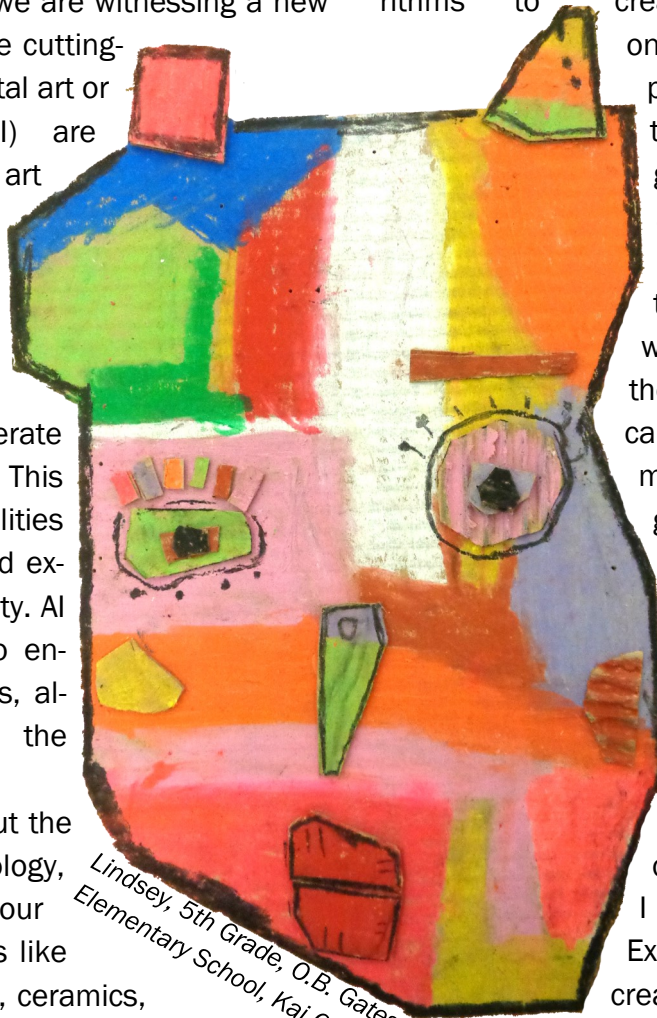
However, as we learn about the potential of AI and technology, it is crucial not to forget our roots. Traditional art forms like drawing, weaving, painting, ceramics, and quilting have been cherished for centuries, representing the cultural heritage of communities. These art forms have a rich history and hold valuable lessons that can inspire and guide students as they navigate the digital age.

One such example is the history of crafts in Appalachia. The region is renowned for its intricate quilting patterns, hand-woven textiles, and pottery. The craftsmanship and attention to detail in these tra-

ditional art forms can serve as a powerful inspiration for students. By blending AI and technology with these crafts, we can create new and exciting possibilities for artistic expression.

Imagine a weaving machine that uses AI algorithms to create intricate patterns based on the weaver's input. Or a painting program that analyzes the artist's strokes and suggests new techniques from artists throughout history. We don't know where the new technologies are leading, but we do know our students have the tools in their hands. How can we best facilitate the experimentation and use of technology tools while teaching our students to honor their own visual voice? The combination of technology and traditional art forms has the potential to create 3D printed sculptures. The Smithsonian actually has historic artifacts that you can 3D print at home. Recently I watched a show called "The Exhibit" where seven promising creators compete to become the "next great artist" and have a show

at the Hirshhorn. Many of the creators used a mix of traditional means of creation with some even using 3D printing and painting in virtual reality. The merging of different means of creation was exciting to watch, but as an educator I wondered how we can continue to provide students with the freedom of a studio environment where they too



Lindsey, 5th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen

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Vice President's Message

Cheryl Miehl



As I write this, I am in the middle of our summer break. I just returned from a two-week Art Educator Forum at Montserrat College of Art in Massachusetts where my horizons were expanded and pushed as I created work in ways I would not have imagined. If you ever have the chance to attend, you most definitely should! It fed my artist's soul and provided inspiration to continue planning for this fall's professional development conference.

We are so excited to return to the beautiful Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, and work in collaboration with the James Madison University Art Education Department! We have over 90 different workshops scheduled thanks to the willingness of so many of our fantastic Virginia art educators, vendors, and our keynote speaker.

If you joined us for our online conference in 2020 you were introduced to the energizing and entertaining Steven Prince. He is an amazing artist and educator who brings such energy and positivity to sharing his love of art with everyone he encounters. He currently serves as the Director of Engagement at William & Mary's Muscarelle Museum of Art. He is offering Expressive Watercolor Monotypes: With or Without a Press, twice during the conference and I know I will most definitely be attending

one of the opportunities because I so enjoy his presentations! Make sure to sign up if you would like to experience this workshop!

We are always striving to improve the fall conference and provide the best possible opportunities for professional growth through collaboration, and celebrating the arts. This year we have crafted a "Celebration of the Arts" as our Friday night event. We will celebrate this year's award winners. We look forward to having a larger group of attendees present for the awards as this is just one way we showcase the phenomenal work being done across the regions, the state, and even nationally by the amazing art educators of Virginia!

I look forward to experiencing the conference with each and every one of you and seeing how the Art on the Horizon will feed our souls and carry us through the school year! ■



Kayla S., 9th Grade, Brentsville District High School, Cheryl Miehl

Advocacy

Jimi Herd



Hello Virginia Art Educators! As we begin another amazing year in the school art studio, there are countless opportunities on the horizon for our students to succeed, engage, and build lifelong pathways through the visual arts! During this exciting time, I'm sure you've witnessed the many positive outcomes that your program offers on so many levels. With this in mind, remember that your role in opening up the door for communities, parents, and leaders to also experience the powerful impact of art education is so fundamental to advocacy!

As you look towards long term plans for the year, consider the many ways to continue being an arts advocate. Here are but a few ways that you could strengthen your program through advocacy!

Educate your community

Our role as art educators at times doesn't end within the walls of our classrooms. You are the resident expert on the arts in your community! Finding ways to educate the greater community about the rigorous learning experiences that happen in the art studio and "opening" the studio doors can happen in countless ways. One possibility is the importance of including rich explanations of the creative process within exhibits and other sharing methods. Consider sources such as the Virginia Visual Art Standards of Learning as well as student narratives and artists' statements. Both can be a powerful tool to teach and remind others of the incredible learning taking place!

Be Informed and Engage

Stay up to date outside of the classroom with possible legislation that relates to the arts and engage as a private citizen! Track legislation through Virginia's Legislative Information System at lis.virginia.gov!

Include the Arts

The arts bind our communities together in meaningful ways, and can be an important way to build a deeper understanding of all learning content. As art educators, we have the tremendous potential to build meaningful partnerships and collaborate with colleagues in multiple disciplines to enrich our entire school community through the arts! Developing projects and experiences for the arts to occur outside of the studio can be a vital way for many more students to gain access to the arts during learning!

Spotlight Their Success

As always, we seek to uplift our students and help to provide platforms to celebrate their success! Organizing both arts-centered events and integrating the arts into other opportunities help to put these successes in the forefront and advocate for the tremendous experiences happening each day!

Collaborate with Art Colleagues and Reach out

The network of support through the VAEA is an excellent resource for art educators throughout Virginia! Reach out anytime to our VAEA Helpline via our website at vaea.org with questions on a variety of topics, and will be happy to connect you with an expert in the field!

I wish you the best this fall, and am so excited for your school community because you are a part of it! See you at the conference in Harrisonburg! ■

Social Media

Jess Beach



Looking towards our *Art on the Horizon* conference, I am excited to see many of you at our summit (pun intended) in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains!

Reminder to please follow the excitement happening by searching and posting with our conference hashtag **#vaARTed23** on our social media platforms! If you attend, please share your posts with us by adding this hashtag! We enjoy seeing your perspective of this wonderful event with your colleagues. We will have our award winners posted, moments from sessions, and all our big events! The best aspect of the conference is that we have a moment yearly to come together and social media is the perfect place to share that experience!

While the conference is one of our fondest moments annually, our year consists of fabulous moments each month online! Please join us for our excit-

ing
Think-

F A S T

(Friday Art

Shares for Teachers) on the

last Friday of each month on our Facebook VAEA member Forum*!

Also, on the second Monday of each month you can watch a MMMart

(Monday Museum Moment) where we virtually explore our beloved Virginia Art Museums and Galleries on the forum! Additionally, you can follow our in-

stagram account (@vaARTed) for a Takeover Tuesday where a VAEA member shares their

day with you! Do these events sound like something you would like to participate in? I am always looking for new members to share ideas; please feel free to contact me!

All of these established elements of our online presence are wonderful! I often find myself unwinding at the end of a long day scrolling social media myself, shocking! Do you know what catches my attention the most? You probably do because you find yourself doing it too! The quick videos which are either comical or have quick solutions. This led me to a new idea for VAEA.... We are looking to keep our YouTube Channel (@vaARTed) modern and fresh. Would you be interested in sharing a quick video which is under 3 minutes about something you are proud of in your art studio? Our **VAEA shorts** would focus on tips for the trade such as material organization, simple techniques, or helpful strategies! *Please only record yourself (not your students) for media release purposes. I am excited to see how these shorts can help us all learn from one another!

Please reach out to me at jessica-beach4@gmail.com if you would be interested in hosting an online session or submitting a short! ■

*Please note: It has come to our attention that there is another Virginia Art Education Association Forum out there not connected to our Association on Facebook. Please double check that you are a member of the "VAEA Member Forum" which also has our logo on the page. The imposter is called "Virginia Art Education Association Forum" and has a muted green and beige color scheme. Thank you all for your diligence!



Caroline, 7th Grade,
The Hill School,
Linda Conti

Awards

Meghan Hamm



As we look forward to this year's VAEA conference, we will be celebrating our award winners. Next year, this could be you... Here's what you need to know to prepare.

WHO ARE PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES?

Any VAEA member who meets the award criteria established by NAEA may be nominated. VAEA Membership is not required for the Distinguished Service (Outside the Profession) and "Friends of the Visual Arts" Awards.

WHO MAY NOMINATE?

Any VAEA member may nominate. You can even self-nominate. Art Administrators/Supervisors may be nominated by administrators, supervisors, or principals who do not hold a VAEA membership.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Nomination form and vita— bit.ly/VAEANomination-form

NAEA Rubrics- bit.ly/NAEARubrics

WHAT TO INCLUDE?

VAEA Nomination form

Letter of Nomination from the nominator

NAEA Standardized Vita/ Resume Form, using no smaller than 10pt type

Two letters of Recommendation

Digital Image of Nominee

All nomination packets are adjudicated using the NAEA rubric. Using the rubric to create your vita is a great way to make sure you are including everything you do. For more information and helpful hints, please visit vaea.org/awards1.html

DEADLINES:

Packets due to Regional Presidents by August 15.

Packets due to Awards chair by August 30. ■



Riley, 11th Grade, Louis County High School, Alex LeBarr

Supervision and Administration

Mike Kalafatis



Envisioning the future is a difficult endeavor. However, let's attempt to discuss what is currently happening post-pandemic. I will list strategies we can use as leaders to meet these challenges and brainstorm open-ended questions we'll need to address as we move towards an unknowable future.

During the pandemic, students experienced collective trauma and a lack of consistency which caused a disruption in how our students learned and retained information. Therefore, we need to remind our teachers to **build stamina for engaged learning**.

- Go back to the basics with all levels, review and practice foundational skills.
- Scaffold skill building and conceptual skills.
- Incorporate engaging media.
- Break up studio time with brain breaks and movement.
- Infuse games and creative exercises that will keep students engaged.

Over the past several years, our students have lost social skills they would have gained during in-person learning. It's important that **social skills be integrated into daily classroom practice**.

- Create opportunities for collaboration.
- Pair students up or create teams during art challenge games.
- Create a community within your classroom that assigns everyone delegated roles.
- Initiate prompts that develop critical thinking skills.
- Engage your students through critique and discussion.

We need to keep reinforcing to our school communities, policy leaders, and decision makers the **positive impact the arts have on mental health and increased student engagement in school**.

- Create a presence on social media.
- Participate in our state YAM Book contest

each year. That documentation also serves as evidence of growth from year to year.

Learning for students, teachers and administrators is an ongoing process. It's important that we continue to reflect and remember to teach students where they are, not where they were. **Incorporate ways for students to be flexible.**

- Educators need to be responsive to each student's needs.
- Support literacies that enable a person to decode and discern information beyond words and text, to understand and apply visual means of communication, and to navigate and participate in digitally mediated environments.
- Give different materials for students to demonstrate a specific skill or concept. When doing so, set clear expectations, scaffold support, and have a growth mindset in place.
- Continue to go back and forth between larger and smaller projects.
- Brainstorm seating options, using quiet tables, the floor and standing at a countertop.

Ensure learning has purpose and meaning. Most divisions require teachers to define with their students the "what, why, and how." First, identify the purpose of practice. Then, demonstrate how the practice supports the product. Lastly, connect those skills to their lives.

- Provide various entry points to support critical thinking, self-expression, and problem-solving skills.
- Engage students with real-world issues, concerns, problems, and global topics with thematic prompts.

It is often said that art reflects society. In recent decades, the connections between art and society have become more visible. Photography and the moving image already capture reality, documenting it, and staging it. Pop art re-imagined

Continued on page 21

Virginia Department of Education

Kelly Bisogno



Hello from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). I am Kelly Bisogno, the VDOE Coordinator of Fine Arts, and it is my pleasure to serve the Commonwealth in this role. The goal of the fine arts program at VDOE is to develop and provide support and resources to educators and administrators for effective implementation of Standards of Learning for fine arts programs. I work with educators, administrators, community organizations, and other stakeholders. If you would like to learn more about the

work of VDOE fine arts, you can visit the website <https://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching-learning-assessment/instruction/fine-arts>. You may also email me at Kelly.bisogno@doe.virginia.gov with any questions or comments and to be added to the monthly newsletter email list for VDOE fine arts news, resources, and opportunities for leadership. I hope to hear from you! ■



Sania, 7th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath

Division News

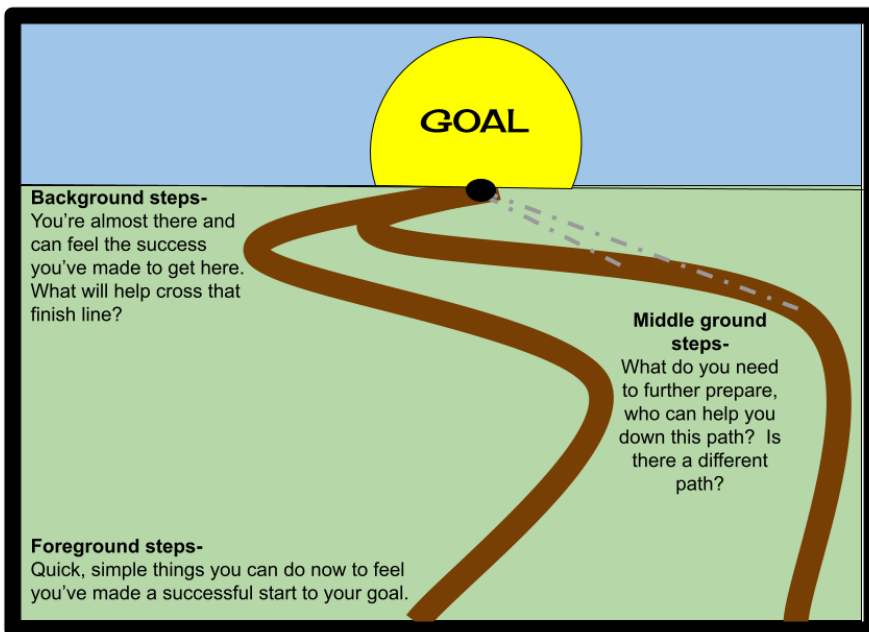
Elementary

Scott Russell



This year's conference theme of *Art on the Horizon* puts a lot into perspective... not to put a fine point on it (vanishing point that is), but how are you crossing that line and bringing the hard work and amazing learning happening in your art room out of the background and into the foreground? Have you been feeling lost in the middle ground for a while?

When I envision this horizon, I relate it to a destination for the journey. So, what is your goal for this year? Think beyond that student growth goal or evaluation goal that we all make that is something basic we know we can achieve. What is that goal you have had on your radar that you haven't tried yet? Maybe it's a media that you don't focus on because you aren't as familiar with it, or maybe it's a genre that you don't explore often. Maybe it's a new methodology of teaching.



So, there's your horizon - that's your goal. Now place a pin on it and mark your vanishing point. Now let's draw the path to get there. Place your markers along your path - what are the short-term steps that you can do now that will help you feel you're making progress to that goal? We all need to feel those quick successes that enable us to

feel the attainability of that goal, so we work to see it through. These may be simply things that you can do yourself. Consider who or what you need to do to bring into this goal journey.

Those elements may fall into your middle ground. It gives you time to envision the path some more, any detours, side streets or alternate routes. Then, finally, what are the far away elements, those things that are a bit fuzzy as to how you will meet them so that your goal comes to fruition. Right now, they are small on your radar, but you know that once you get closer to your goal that they will loom a bit larger.

This year at our conference, our *Conversations with Colleagues* session for elementary division will feature a carousel of learning. If you've attended a NAEA Convention recently you may have attended one of their carousels -

they are designed for quick, short sharing on a topic. These can be done with or without technology, they are fun, interactive and allow new voices to be heard in a short, easy conversational style session. Incidentally, this was how I gave my first NAEA presentation. I participated in one of the elementary carousels.

So, I'm looking for YOUR input- what's a topic you need to hear about, what's a short tip or procedure you would be able to share/ demonstrate (last year I called these our BFOs - Blinding Flash of the Obvious)? This is a great way to ease yourself into presenting. It is small group, conversational

and you don't have to stand in front of a whole room of adults. So - what would you like to share? Scan this QR code and let me know! ■



Middle

Kristie Hein



Welcome Middle Level Art educators to this VAEA news edition, *Art on the Horizon!* Each school year is an exciting opportunity to embrace our role as educators in designing meaningful learning experiences for our students in visual art and bring our art teacher dreams to reality.

We are responsible for many things, including our learning environments, our students, the content we teach and how we teach it. Seems simple enough, yet when student behaviors cause interruptions that pop up like a game of whack-a-mole, our frustrations rise, and our morale can be crushed. Our best laid plans may fail and the seemingly ever-increasing responsibilities may bring the question to mind, is this really worth it?

It is true that our responsibilities as art educators are many, and that teaching at the middle level is incredibly challenging. However, it is also magnificently rewarding.

Consider this quote attributed to Holocaust survivor and Austrian psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl. "Between stimulus and response, there is a space. And in that space lies our freedom and power to choose our responses. In our responses lies our growth and our freedom."

We can take responsible action and choose our response to any situation we face with our students. Frankl explains responsibility as breaking it into two words, response-ability. Consider a time

when you completely lost your cool contrasted with a time where your response opened space for you to remain grounded through a difficult moment. How different the outcomes are for all when we use kindness and humor when working with the challenges we face. Our response abilities can be practiced daily as challenges arise. We do this by pausing, taking a breath, and mindfully responding rather than reacting. At the end of each day, cultivate a positive mindset by mentally reflecting on, or physically listing, a few joyful moments or interactions. Focusing on the good and the smallest of wins will help build your response abilities.

Whether you are decades into your career, or in your first year of teaching at the middle level, our network at VAEA is here for you. Mark your calendar to attend the VAEA conference. Our keynote speaker, Steve Prince, will not disappoint. Join in on the middle level division meeting and Conversations with Colleagues Carousel: Middle session, designed for quick, short sharing on a variety of topics. Contribute to our Carousel session by using the QR code in this news edition to answer a quick survey to guide our content. Please reach out if you have any questions and I hope to see you in person at VAEA! I wish you all an amazing and enjoyable school year. ■

References:

Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning*. Beacon Press, 2006.



Division News Secondary

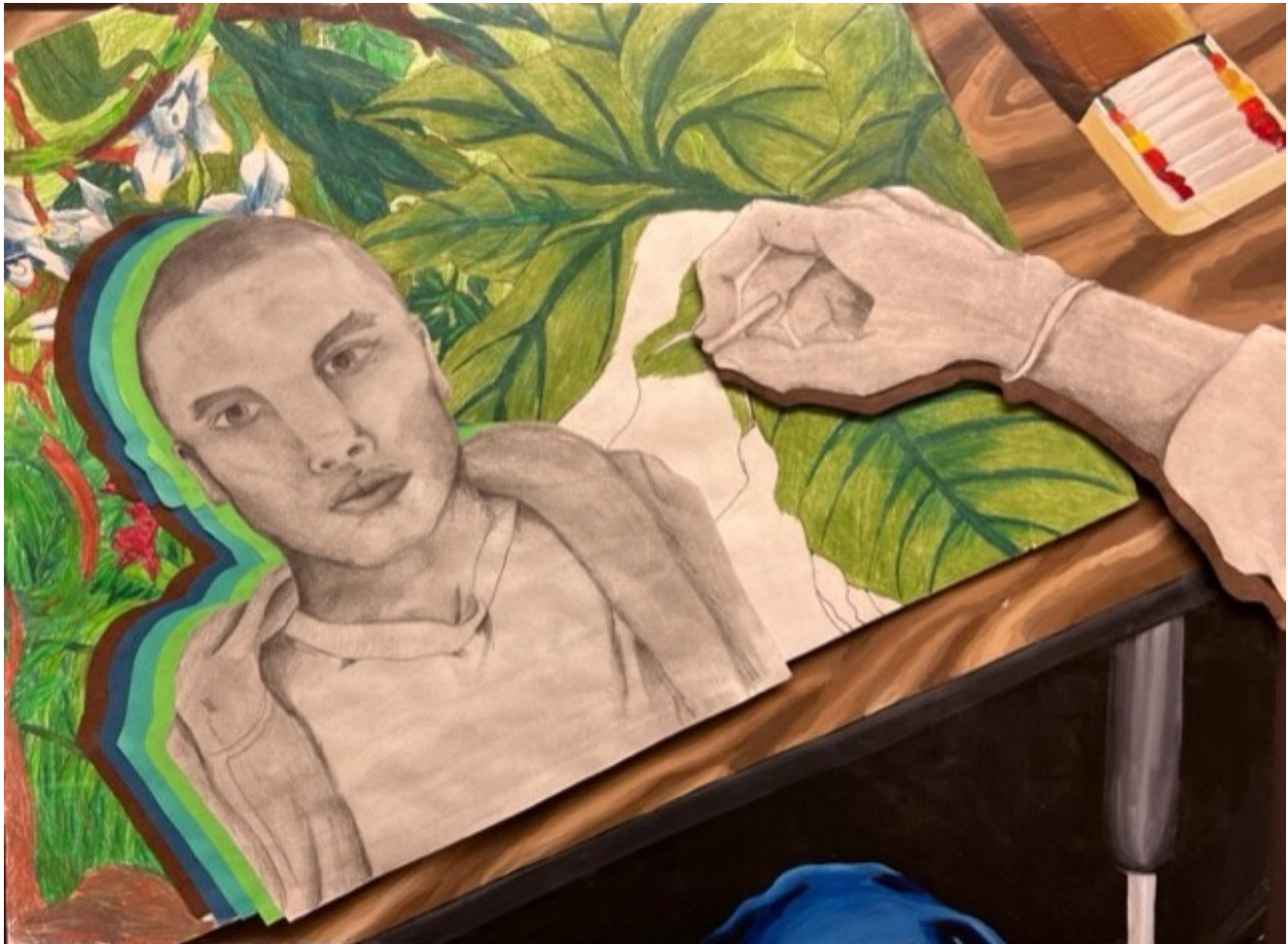
Andrea Stuart



Art is always on my horizon, art is my life. We teach skills and strive to inspire imagination and dreams through our teaching and the projects we craft for our students. As we get closer to prepare for the beginning of school we should all reflect on what art on the horizon means to us as Secondary Art Educators. For me, it is the circle of life, moving toward more creation, greater inspiration, seeing what is always in view and never reachable. Art on the Horizon is making a mark, living life to the fullest and always reaching for the horizon of life and art. As art educators, we need to inspire our students, giving them the tools to reach their next horizon and to make art an essential part of their life. One valuable thing I have learned in 30 years of teach-

ing Secondary Art is the importance of Performance Assessment and having all my students create a digital portfolio of their coursework. This portfolio includes an artist statement, with all projects introduced with a title page displaying only one piece of work per slide. This becomes part of their journey to a new horizon. We should always strive toward new horizons by challenging ourselves and our students to reach the ultimate horizon, the Pot of Gold; our dreams come true!

I would love for you all to bring a favorite lesson to share for our Secondary Art Teacher meeting at conference this November. It can be a single handout or a display board to share. Looking forward to seeing you all at conference. ■



Omar, 8th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath

Higher Education

Karin Tollefson-Hall



We are excited to assist in hosting the VAEA fall conference at JMU! Thank you to everyone who will be presenting or who mentored students, teachers, and colleagues in their proposals and session preparation. Please plan to come to the Higher Education division meeting. I am eager to hear updates on the exciting changes to the art education programs in the Commonwealth. The Higher Ed meeting is also a wonderful way for newer faculty to meet their professional peers, so please encourage junior faculty to attend.

On behalf of Higher Education and the Virginia Supervisors and Administrators, please encourage your NAEA student chapter members and officers to participate in the annual employment session. It has been wonderful to sustain a collaboration with Justin Sutters and Michael Kalafatis to organize the *Supervision/Administration Employment Q&A and Pre-Service Showcase*. Pre-service members from all art education programs are invited to participate in this two-part session to begin connecting with the districts that may be employing them.

The session begins with a conversation guided by a moderator in order to learn about each district represented and their hiring process and includes time to ask questions of the panel of Arts Supervisors and Administrators. The second half of the session is a round table style meet-and-greet for pre-service members and supervisors/administrators to make introductions. I would suggest that students bring copies of their resume to hand out to the Supervisors with whom they “interview.” Teacher candidates student teaching in 2023-24 are highly encouraged to participate, but students still in coursework are also welcome. It is never too early to practice interview skills and generate professional networks! I look forward to meeting your students at conference.

I always welcome information to include in these newsletters. Please send announcements, new faculty introductions, or other information you would like shared directly to me for inclusion in future newsletters. (tollefk1@jmu.edu) ■



Savannah , 11th Grade, Louisa County High School, Alex Labarr

Division News

Museum Education

Laura McManus



Art and educational impact are on the horizon for the Hampton Roads community! In July, the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (Virginia MOCA) announced the museum will have a new home on the Virginia Beach campus of Virginia Wesleyan University. According to a joint press release, “the new facility will serve as a hub for creativity and innovation, fostering artistic expression and offering an immersive experience for visitors and students alike. With an inventive design and versatile spaces, the facility will be equipped to host a range of exhibitions, performances, and educational programs available to students and the greater public.”

In a separate statement, Gary Ryan, Director, and CEO of Virginia MOCA, discussed one way the collaboration will expand Virginia MOCA’s reach: “Virginia MOCA already works closely with schools in Virginia Beach and throughout our region to educate students through innovative programming centered on the outstanding contemporary art we bring to our Museum. Now we can provide those experiences for and with VWU stu-

dents and faculty. Our new home will be much more than a building—it will be, in effect, an incredible new classroom. In it, we will conduct the very best interdisciplinary, experiential learning using the most vibrant art of our time. We will create new arts undergraduate and graduate programs and help VWU faculty use art as an inspirational tool for other academic disciplines. By engaging students of all ages and backgrounds, we will help shape the future leaders of the world through the power of art.” A timeline has not been released, but you can find information and updates on the construction of the new facility on viriniamoca.org and vwu.edu. Congratulations! ■



Jordyn , 4th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary, Kai Chen



Banks, 5th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen



Andres, 5th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath



Clarissa, 8th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath



Chloe, 10th Grade, Brentsville District High School, Cheryl Miehl



Casey, 11th Grade, Louisa County High School, Alex LaBarr



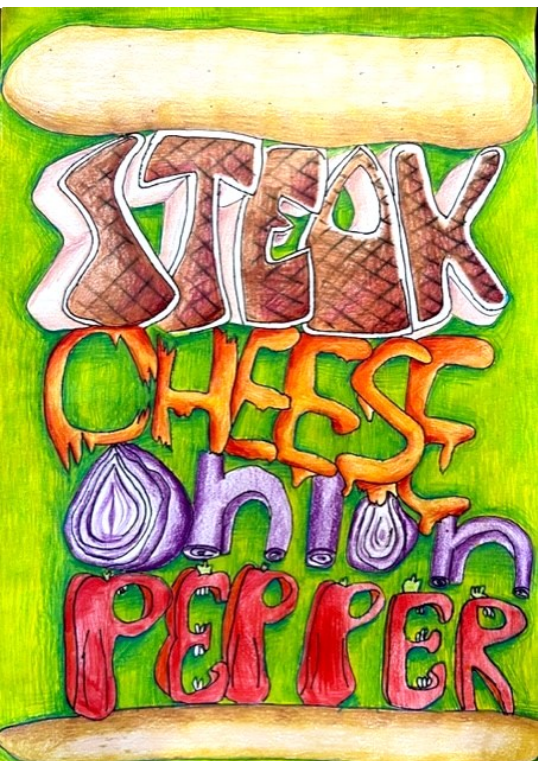
Izzy, 12th Grade, Warren County High School, Andrea Stuart



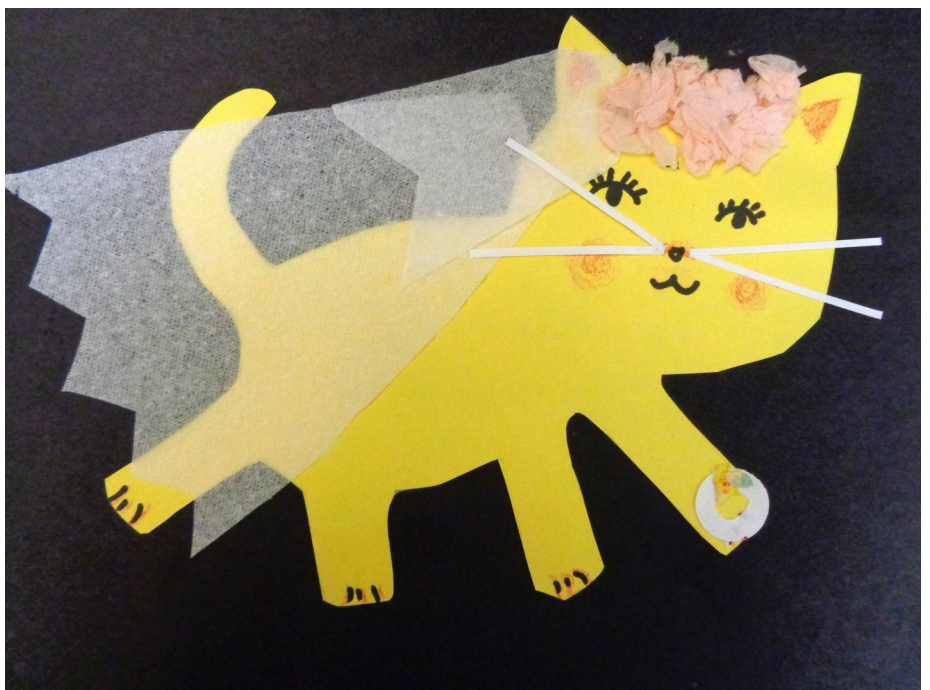
Sarah, 8th Grade, Skyline Middle School, Holly Bess Kincaid



Hannah, 8th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath



David, 6th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath



Skylyn, 5th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen



Nariyah, 7th Grade, Brookland Middle School,
Michelle McGrath



Kinsley, 4th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen



Kayla, 12th Grade, Brentsville District High School,
Cheryl Miehl

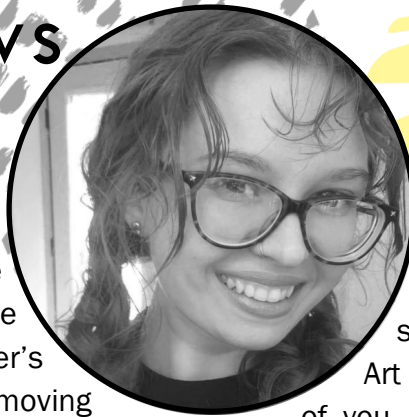


Clive, 8th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath

Division News

Preservice

Raeven Harris



I was a bit puzzled as to what to write about when the theme “Art on the Horizon” was chosen for this quarter’s theme. We look to the horizon when moving forward, perpetually ahead of us. So, this got the gears in my brain turning: what is on my own horizon? Closer to me is finishing the Praxis II exam and preparing for the return to classes. As I move through this, the next horizon is preparing for student teaching. Then, it is finding an art teacher position educating children.

It feels as though the horizon never ceases be-

cause it never does. There is always something more that we can strive for. Art is always on my horizon as it is for all of you. However, this is art in an academic sense. What creative goals do I have for myself as an artist? I suppose it is finding my spark once again. Doodling in the margins, not worrying about a grade, and creating for the sake of creation.

There is always a horizon, a further goal, or something on the mind. What art is on the horizon for you? ■



Breyelle, 5th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary, Kai Chen

Continued from Holly Bess Kincaid

can experiment with their creative ideas and different mediums.

The art on the horizon is a blend of the old and the new, the traditional and the futuristic. By embracing the potential uses of technology, we can create a bridge between past and present, inspiring students to push their creative boundaries while honoring and preserving the rich heritage of traditional art forms. Our classrooms and schools have a vari-

ety of tools from VR glasses to view historic sites, iPads and computers for creating digital prints, laser cutters that can etch or cut with precision, 3D printers to create sculptures. We need to continue to teach the basic skills of creating with traditional tools so that students have the knowledge and potential to invent new ways of using them in the future. As we look forward, let us not forget where we have come from, for it is from our roots that we find the inspiration to reach new artistic heights. ■

Policy

Barbara Laws



As we begin another school year, here is a look at some upcoming policy and advocacy initiatives.

In 2010, Congress passed resolution 275 which recognizes the important role of the arts in schools, designates Arts in Education Week, and calls on elected officials and education decision makers nationwide to raise awareness of the value of arts education. Each year the weeklong celebration takes place beginning on the second Sunday of September, this year, the 10th-16th. For many Virginia school systems, the timing is challenging as it occurs at the beginning of the school year. There may be opportunities here to advocate for the importance of arts education programs as initial communications are distributed to parents and administrators. Additional resources are available on the NAEA and Americans for the Arts websites.

To help with your advocacy throughout the year is the publicly accessible interactive Virginia Arts Education Data Project data dashboard located at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/view/virginia-coalition-for-fine-arts-education/data-dashboard/va-arts-ed-dashboard?authuser=0>

Searchable to the classroom and course levels and by various student characteristics, the information there, comprised of data from the VA Department of Education, is continuing to be updated to enable use by anyone to examine the level of student access arts education. More information and training will be available soon. Try it out!

Finally, while in March we celebrate Youth Art Month and, with our Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education (VCFAE) colleagues Arts in the Schools, we found that we needed to also concentrate on the beginning of the year when the Virginia General Assembly convenes. We will be keeping an eye on 2024 proposed legislation and, as we have in the past, jointly with the VCFAE will declare January as Arts Advocacy Month. We hope that you will join us for the Arts Advocacy Summit and will follow our updates regarding legislation being filed. More information will be posted on the VAEA and VCFAE websites soon.

The VAEA Hotline, available on the VAEA website, is there to help members with research, teaching, instruction, curriculum, and other questions; it is also accessible for advocacy and policy issues. Please contact us when you need us! ■



Kiran, 8th Grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti



Natasha, 8th Grade, The Hill School, Linda Conti

Continued from Mike Kalafatis

our symbols. And now, Generative AI models, virtual reality, and algorithmic creation are introducing significant changes in the process of art making, giving us countless, nuanced questions about the differences between curation and creation.

In Arizona State Professor Cala Coats' "Embrace Art Education's Indiscernibility," she observes a persistent insecurity among art educators that is tied to a desire to coalesce around a primary purpose for art education. Cala proposes an alternative view in which art curriculum, teaching, and learning are a vibrant assemblage capable of being many things at once.

Different conceptions of the future inform art curriculum, but the reverse is also true—artistic and creative activity are necessary for imagining and shaping a sustainable future. Over the next few years, leaders will need to evaluate what's new and decide if it's a good fit for the lives we want to lead. We need to keep ethical questions in the forefront of our minds as the world moves at an increasingly dizzying pace. Will these new technologies connect or continue to divide us? And how do we lead our students and teachers in this era of digitalization? ■

References

Coats, Cala. (2020). *Embrace Art Education's Indiscernibility*. *Art Education*, 44- 47.

Artsper Magazine, *What's the Future of Art?* March 29, 2022

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Membership

Patsy Parker



Merriman-Webster's definition of horizon is "to limit the range of knowledge, experience, or outlook."

We, as artists, perceive the horizon as expansive skies with colors ranging from delicate pastels to vibrant hues, viewed through the phenomenon of light. In general, we as artists would not comprehend the notion of horizon as limitation, but rather as the promise of time and events yet to come.

To me, art education relating to time yet to come translates as the concept of "lifelong learning" which we as art educators embrace. We are perpetually banking knowledge. We thrive on regional weekend workshops, annual state conferences and national conventions to spend quality time with our tribe and hone our skills. (FYI – If you haven't experienced our "family reunions" : the VAEA conferences are modeled after the NAEA conventions. We rotate "setting up camp" among the five regions in Virginia, taking advantage of the local resources, guest artists and presenters to make the best onsite experience available to our members.)

VAEA Fall Conference, Harrisonburg, Nov, 16–18, 2023

Make plans to attend! Professional development opportunities are difficult strategically and financially for many of us. Please take a moment now to go to vaea.org and print the Letter of Encouragement (found in the Conference section) for you to utilize the "talking points" when stating your case with your school administrators. Please do not hesitate...lay the foundation. Share this edition of the VAEA news magazine to "show and tell" your building administrators the variety and quality of sessions and workshops available to you. Detail how your art curriculum will be enhanced and how you and your art students will be strengthened from your experiences. Establish/build

this professional relationship within your building/district and make connections in your region and statewide!

NAEA - artedcautors.org

For those art teachers hindered by professional leave constraints and/or lack of financial support, this site is a gift well worth NAEA/VAEA membership many times over. Please do not neglect to investigate the phenomenal depth and breadth of knowledge and information located here. You will be amazed! You will be able to "fill in the blanks" with content you did not know existed. (I love the ah-ha moments.) Your personal password opens a treasure trove of information to keep you moving onward and upward to new horizons in your career growth and fine-tuning your curriculum. For questions you could not sleuth the answers, take advantage of the Open Forum Digest. Get responses to questions/dilemmas within 24 hours.

- Use your NAEA account to access the site content available 24/7.
- Sign up for webinars, archived speakers' videos, Virtual Conferences and more.
- The National Visual Arts Standards Toolbox App, National Visual Arts Standards, Design Standards Based units, lessons and more are FREE!

When you discover a colleague who is not a member, please share information and your NAEA/VAEA experiences. You are not selling a membership...you offer a "lifeline" to an art educator who may be isolated and has no knowledge of the generosity or quality of experiences offered to members. No other professional education association has the resources to address the growth of an art educator on such a variety of levels. ■

Research

Yiwen Wei



The 2023 VAEA conference theme evokes reminiscences of aesthetic encounters with the sublime in nature and art. In this article, I will delve into the significance of art education that promotes profound experiences of the sublime in nature.

Edmund Burke, an esteemed Anglo-Irish philosopher, contended that the sublime is the most powerful experience in which individuals undergo a whirlwind of intense emotions encompassing excitement, terror, and awe. According to him, art truly shines when it evokes a sublime experience within its viewers. Similarly, Immanuel Kant, a renowned German philosopher, expounded upon the realms of the pleasant, the beautiful, the good, and the sublime, all of which constitute his philosophical framework concerning judgments of taste and transcendental aesthetics. In simpler terms, both philosophers would concur that individuals perceive the sublime when they behold extraordinary scenes in nature, considering them the pinnacle of artistic manifestations in the natural world.

Before delving too deeply into philosophical jargon and risking tedium, I wish to explore the interconnectedness between the conference theme ("Art on the Horizon"), experiences of the sublime, and Earth art education (please note the italicized "art" within "Earth"). Let us imagine encountering the sublime at various junctures in our lives, such as witnessing the breathtaking glow of a sunset or being overwhelmed by the vibrant array of fish and coral reefs while snorkeling in the tropical ocean. However, it is vital to acknowledge the gradual endangerment of our natural environment and habitats due to human activities, consumption, and waste, leading to ecological crises and degradation, such as global warming and pollution. Schol-

ars of art education Tom Anderson and Anniina Suominen (2012) have highlighted that our competitive and consumerist society has estranged people from the natural world and one another. Hence, they proposed a paradigm shift, transitioning from a predominantly intellectual, individualistic, and dualistic orientation to a more interconnected sense of self-realization as interbeing. In their view, deep ecology can serve as the foundation of art education, which aims to restore reverence for nature and reestablish human connections.

The principles and strategies they suggested, such as cultivating radical amazement at nature, resonate with my childhood memories. Growing up in the countryside, my siblings and I would joyfully run barefoot through the farmlands. We relished crouching by the roadside, intently observing plants and insects, eager to learn their names and species. However, after relocating to the city, I realized that my attitude toward nature differed considerably from those of my urban-raised friends. I was astounded to discover that my peers rarely noticed the creatures in their immediate surroundings. Our respective perceptions of nature had diverged.

Earth education possesses the potential to inspire people to develop a deep love and care for nature and the environment through the medium of art, which is the fertile ground of creation. Instead of solely fixating on the formal aspects of art, individuals must cultivate empathy for the world around them, thereby rebuilding their sense of belonging. ■

Regional Messages Central

Alex LaBarr



It's that time of year again, when summer is winding down and school picks back up. I know many can get overwhelmed during this hectic time of year but try to keep your eye on the bigger picture, working with students through art. I find it helpful to reach out and connect with other art teachers, as we are often our own little island in our schools. One of the best ways to connect with others is through workshops and conferences! I hope you are all excited about the upcoming conference in Harrisonburg: Art on the Horizon. It is shaping up to be a fun filled weekend, full of different workshops, speakers and more. Connecting with other art teachers to help bounce ideas off of or work through frustrations can be a game changer as a teacher, especially if you are the only art educator

at your location. Find the tribe that gets our unique set of problems and circumstances to help you through it. Art Educators from all over Virginia will be in Harrisonburg at the same time to share their knowledge and experiences, so take advantage! I hope to be presenting on some of the things I have been doing in my classroom and can't wait to see what everyone else has been up to. The Central Region is also planning some upcoming events locally. I am pleased to announce that our *Mini-Conference* will make its return in the beginning of 2024. We are also in the process of lining up our *Artists' Retreat* and *Educators as Artists* show, so be on the lookout for more information coming your way during our upcoming VAEA Central Region meeting. I hope you will all take advantage of the

upcoming opportunities to connect with other art teachers. Whether you attend the conference in Harrisonburg, the *Mini-Conference* in 2024, or the *Artists' Retreat*, I know you will find it to be a valuable experience. Connecting with other art teachers can help you improve your teaching skills, stay up-to-date on the latest trends in art education, and find support and encouragement. I hope to see you there! ■



Emmanuella, 6th Grade, Brookland Middle School, Michelle McGrath

Regional Messages

Blue Ridge

Melissa Combs

Has anyone else noticed that a new trend on the horizon is teaching crafts in art education? Many schools around the Blue Ridge Region have been offering crafts for years, but those of us in more general art education programs have seen this type of functional art finding a new popularity. Maybe it is because we were limited to mainly two-dimensional art during our virtual teaching. Maybe it is a realization that crafts are usable, sellable and a way many adults connect to the arts. I noticed at our local farmer's market that macramé items were becoming a regularly sold item again about the same time sewing was working its way into my teaching. There is something comforting about creating art that our great grandparents and before created. This is the same feeling you get when you cook an old family recipe. When I look back at what our region has accomplished in workshops the last few months, I see that teachers are excited about refining and passing these skills to their students. We had a wonderful embroidery workshop in Waynesboro where we learned some tips and tricks to not only creating our own embroidery designs but also how to set our students up for successful stitching. In May a group gathered at Orkney Springs to learn the basics of basketmaking and how to prepare and handle the supplies without soaking the person next to you. There was also the annual Raku workshop in Lyndhurst, which always produces amazing work. Our region is working together to put on a wonderful conference this fall, full of wonderful glimpses of Art on the Horizon. We hope to see you there! ■



Northern

Julie Cacciola

Hello all from the North!! I hope everyone had a restful and rejuvenating summer, filled with family time and maybe some personal art making. Our year gets so filled with our students' work that it can be hard to carve out time for ourselves. This summer I had the opportunity to paint a mural for a restaurant in York, Pennsylvania. Never having painted a mural before, it was quite an experience. Through it I was able to really take note of the artist's process— a concept that will be a focus for me as I start the school year. As an educator I can often get stuck on the results, or making sure my students complete x number of projects. Being involved in a specific project of my own helped me to remember the process, coming up with ideas, making decisions, getting stuck, and problem solving. The process teaches such valuable skills and I look forward to teaching it to my students.

If you are having a hard time getting motivated to teach (and oh we sure can feel that burn out), I suggest turning off your teacher self for a few hours, and just create. Even if it's junk in a sketchbook that may not ever amount to anything, taking that time to just be, and do, can really help. Some of the thoughts and emotions that you encounter while creating can translate quickly into messages that you may want to convey to your students, and can actually enable you to want to get back in the classroom.

Something that also helps me when I am facing extreme reluctance to get back to teaching, is knowing that I have such a great network of art educator professionals. I am so grateful to VAEA. If you haven't been very involved in our region, this fall is a great time to jump in. Why not nominate a colleague? The state is accepting nominations for art educator of the year on every level. I know we have amazing teachers in our region who should be cele-



Continued on page 27

Southwest

Lauren Balint

Recently I was asked to become a mentor teacher in my county. I have always loved working with student teachers, practicum students, and students doing observation. As one of the very few experienced art teachers in my county, many new teachers have been directed to me when they have questions. I don't always get the opportunity to be the person asking for someone else's expertise or get the chance to learn from another. I get the chance usually about once per year to work with the other fine arts teachers in the county, however, a lot of the conversation and time together is controlled by an administrator. I know I don't have to tell our VAEA members, but sometimes our Virginia conference is the only valuable professional development and some of the best conversations I have in the school year. Other than those few days together, I have to find most of my professional growth opportunities on my own. When returning back to school in the fall, knowing that our VAEA conference is coming up is sometimes the one thing that gets me through the first few months, and it even keeps me going into the winter months.

I'm looking forward to seeing SWVAEA at the conference and cannot wait to have great conversations. I know that we've all been working hard in our own counties and schools to do some amazing things. I'm very excited to learn from every presentation and art teacher at the conference. ■



Tidewater

Rebecca Davidson

As we begin a new school year, let's embrace the VAEA Conference theme of *Art on the Horizon* and unlock the limitless potential within our creative pursuits. This theme embodies exploring uncharted territories, pushing boundaries, and encouraging our students to think beyond the norm.

Art on the Horizon encourages us to step out of our comfort zones and discover new realms of artistic expression. One way to do this is by participating in our TVAEA *Colorful Conversations*. Join other art teachers as we explore the arts in our region. Our visit to Hampton University Museum in June was inspiring, reminding us that art is not limited by strict rules or predetermined paths. Instead, it encourages us to experiment with different techniques, materials, and styles and cultivate a spirit of curiosity and exploration within our classrooms.

As art educators, we have the privilege of nurturing our students' natural creativity and helping them discover their artistic voices. By embracing *Art on the Horizon*, we can ignite their passion for self-expression and instill a life-long love for art.

So, how can we integrate this theme into our classrooms? You can encourage your students to try new techniques or



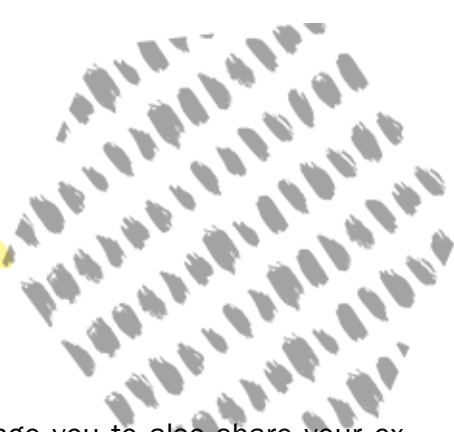
Continued on page 29

Enjoying time at Hampton University and an impromptu tour of the University chapel. From left to right: Cat Gadzinski, Andrea Eisenberger, President Darrell K. Williams, Elizabeth Tumilty, and Rebecca Davidson.



Diversity, Equity Inclusion & Access

Tiffany Floyd



We sincerely thank all who completed the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access (DEIA) survey and participated in the VAEA Fall 2022 VAEA Conference DEIA information session and discussion. The information and comments shared steer us in the right direction for meeting the needs of our membership.

If you're attending the VAEA Fall 2023 Conference, we invite you to join us for a panel discussion featuring culturally sustaining projects and pedagogies that can be utilized by K-12 art educators. Hear from some of your peers who foster an environment centered around diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in their classrooms. Cultural appropriation will be one of the topics covered. We

encourage you to also share your experiences and relevant lessons and strategies. This experience is designed to be informative, encouraging, and supportive. Be on the lookout for more information on this session when the conference registration booklet is released!

If you are interested in participating in future panel discussions and/or serving on the DEIA committee in any capacity please reach out to us via email at deiavaea@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you in November! ■

Continued from Julie Cacciola

brated for their dedication and innovation. Please see the VAEA website for details or contact me for more help. Another way to be involved is to get together with other art educators. This fall we will be meeting to put together pins for the annual VAEA conference, which will be held November 16-18 in Harrisonburg. This is always a great time to hang out with other art teachers and have fun. A final way to get involved is to participate in our monthly Artist Trading Card swap. The theme for September is 'Scapes (as in land, city, sea and space). If September is too busy, join us in October. The theme is Fall Vibes. For all of these events and activities, please see the VAEA website (click on Northern Region) or join our Facebook group. There are groups for both the state and the Northern Region.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions. I can be reached at jjcatch703@gmail.com I wish you all a fabulous start to your school year! ■



*Elizardo , 6th Grade, Brookland Middle School,
Michelle McGrath*

Youth Art Month

Jauan Brooks &
Kelly Shradley-Horst



Dream In Art: Inspiring Students to Achieve Life Goals

The theme for Youth Art Month 2024 is “Dream in Art”. The notion of dreams can take countless forms, from surrealism and fantasy to wild imaginings. But how can we broaden student’s horizons by showing them that the creative process mirrors the journey of achieving their dreams in life?

As teachers, we hold a unique position to nurture creativity but also inspire our students to dream big and strive to achieve their life goals. By drawing parallels between the process of creating art and the journey towards personal aspirations, we can help our students understand the profound value of their artistic skills beyond the confines of the classroom.

How can we effectively communicate "Dream in Art" and guide students in bridging the gap between the process of creating and achieving their life goals? Let’s explore how each step of the typical creation process can be communicated to students in reference to their goals.

1. **Generate ideas/Inspiration:** Encourage students to explore their passions, interests, and values to identify their dreams and aspirations. Help them realize that artistic creations can serve as a wellspring of inspiration for their life goals.
2. **Research:** Guide students to investigate various possibilities aligned with their aspirations. Teach them the importance of expanding their knowledge, seeking guidance, and learning from individuals who have pursued similar journeys.
3. **Imagine/sketch/plan:** Assist students in visualizing and outlining their future outcomes. En-

courage them to create a detailed plan of actionable steps.

4. **Create:** Inspire students to take decisive action toward their life goals, harnessing their artistic abilities and applying them in pursuit of their dreams. Utilize planning and ideation to put the pieces into a creative representation.
5. **Reflection/Revision:** Foster a culture of introspection and adaptation. Encourage students to reflect on their progress, evaluate their actions, and refine their strategies. Emphasize that, akin to artists refining and revising their work, flexibility and learning from setbacks are vital in achieving their goals.
6. **Present:** Celebrate student's accomplishments and provide them with opportunities to share their experiences and successes. Encourage them to take pride in their achievements and inspire others by sharing their journey.

Although March may seem distant, it is essential to start planning for Youth Art Month events now. If you haven’t considered how to incorporate YAM into your classroom, school, district, or community, now is the time. Collaborate with colleagues, determine which existing programs can be featured (even showcasing what you already do can make an impact), and consult the VAEA’s Youth Art Month webpage (under advocacy) for ideas and information.

As we prepare for YAM, let’s foster the connection between creation and achieving life goals. Empower our students to dream ambitiously and pursue

Continued on page 29

Retiree News

**Ginna Cullen &
Carla Jaranson**



Thinking of a horizon, one sees the sun slowly rising to give light to the sea and the land. The art is in the vision before the artist's eyes that can be transformed into a unique image and shared with others. Beauty is solely in the eye of the beholder with each view independent and one of a kind. Each artist has experienced this process again and again with a myriad of individual results. Retirees have gone through this even more often than their younger colleagues.

The beauty of art being on the horizon is that often there is a wonderful unexpected surprise. Often in the process of creating we aren't truly aware of the

ultimate result. This can also be applied to the students we teach. Watching a class come together as an art community as the year progresses is one of the joys of teaching art. Retired teachers know this well.

Please come and join art educators from across the state as we share our unique visions at the annual VAEA conference in October. ■

Continued from Youth Art Month

aspirations with tenacity. Let's guide them in using artistic abilities not only to create captivating artwork but also to shape their own futures. If we can help them see that what we do in the art classroom is transferable into the real world (success in the art room parallels success in the world) we can inspire our students to Dream in Art and bring their aspirations to life. ■

Continued from R. Davidson

materials and step out of their comfort zones. Give them opportunities to experiment with various mediums and styles, allowing their imaginations to soar. Celebrate each student's unique artistic voice and emphasize the importance of self-expression. Encourage them to infuse their art with their own personal narratives, experiences, and emotions. Introduce your students to the exciting possibilities technology offers in the art world. Explore digital art tools, computer-generated imagery, or even virtual reality experiences. Let them witness the intersection of traditional art forms with modern technology. Encourage collaboration and the sharing of ideas among your stu-

dents. Foster a supportive and inclusive environment where they can learn from one another and draw inspiration from diverse perspectives. Connect your students with the broader art community. Organize visits to galleries, museums, or local art events. Last Spring, my first grade went on a virtual field trip to Virginia MOCA. It really brought the exhibition to life for them!

Art on the Horizon reminds us that, as art teachers, we guide our students and embark on our own artistic journeys. Our upcoming VAEA Conference is a great opportunity to explore new techniques, participate in various workshops, and connect with fellow educators to further our growth and keep our artistic flames burning brightly. If you can't attend, check out our regional workshops and upcoming *Colorful Conversations* get-togethers. For more info, check out our Facebook page, facebook.com/TVaea2016, or Instagram, instagram.com/tidewatervaarted. Let's approach this new academic year with a sense of adventure and a commitment to embracing the endless possibilities that *Art on the Horizon* holds. Wishing you a creatively fulfilling year ahead! ■



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This is a promotional graphic for the VAEA Fall Conference. The background is a photograph of the Hotel Madison in Harrisonburg, VA, a large multi-story building with a red-tiled roof and a landscaped lawn in the foreground. Overlaid on the left side of the image is the text "Register now for the VAEA Fall Conference!" in a mix of blue and purple fonts. To the right of this text is a circular logo with a stylized landscape and the text "ART ON THE HORIZON" and "VAEA 2023". In the bottom right corner, there is a large QR code for registration. The overall design is vibrant and professional.