



vaea

Virginia **Art** Education Association

Reset & Reflect

Yuliana , 6th Grade,
Skyline Middle School,
Holly Bess Kincaid

Spring 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 newsmagazine.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



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President's Message

Holly Bess Kincaid

Spring is a season for renewal with flowers blooming and birds making their nests, yet educators face a season of testing, exhaustion, and the anticipation of the closing of another school year. While the two may seem opposite, we educators can make a mental shift to find a place of renewal and refresh in moments just like these. There are a few things that help me find peace and strength to finish the year strong. Let's spring into a few of my favorite things to find my own renewal for the classroom and self!

Professionally, the NAEA Convention is always my go to for networking, collaboration, and finding my tribe of passionate art educators. Many VAEA members made their way to San Antonio this spring to the NAEA23 Convention. Cheryl Miehle and I served as Delegates for Virginia and spent a day with leaders from around the country discussing policy, initiatives and hearing from both NAEA President James Haywood Rolling Jr. and the now current NAEA President, Wanda Knight. You might remember hearing our keynote from Wanda Knight during our Virtual VAEA Conference in the fall of 2020. We were very thankful to have her join us that year online!

VAEA members shared their best practices and were part of many different sessions during the NAEA convention. Thank you to all who took the time to prepare and share their knowledge with other educators. The presentations are always a wonderful way to help others find new strategies to refresh their practice or renew their passions for creative classroom ideas. Every presentation I was able to attend was full of energized educators sharing wonderful ideas.

A special highlight of the NAEA Convention this year was celebrating with several of our VAEA members who were recognized with awards at the convention. Congratulations to our awardees: Dr. David Burton - NAEA 2023 Eisner Lifetime Achievement Award, Michael Gettings- NAEA National Supervision and Administration Art Educator of the Year, Dr. Karin Tollefson-Hall - Virginia Art Educator of the Year, Jason Sutters- Preservice Service Chapter Sponsor Art Educator of the Year Award, our VAEA Youth Art Month Team (Kelley Shradley-Horst & Jauan Brooks) were recognized with the Award of Excellence. Jason Sutters and Leigh Drake were recognized for their completion of the NAEA School for Art Leaders, Class of 2022. Congratulations again to all our members who were recognized for their efforts and work in art educa-

Continued on page 16



Payton, 12th Grade, Appomattox Regional Governor's School for the Arts and Technology, Susann Whittier

Vice President's Message

Cheryl Miehl



Making Time to Reset & Refresh

As educators, many of us are in a constant state of motion. Our plates are piled high with professional responsibilities, families and children's responsibilities, and we try to squeeze in time with our friends as well. With the stakes high and full of responsibility, do you remember to create or designate time for yourself? If so, what do you do to fill your cup so that you can continue to serve all the other areas and responsibilities in your life?

I have just returned from the NAEA Convention in San Antonio, Texas, and while it is several days packed with delegates meetings, workshops, awards, and ceremonies, it is a way I give back to myself. I do not deny that I returned home the first day dragging because of travel. The overall experience of attending conference brings me joy through connecting with my Virginia teaching buddies I do not see often enough, through meeting and developing connections with acquaintances from other states and division levels. I return home with memories that I will forever cherish of shared hugs with people I only see in person once or twice a year, an evening spent high above the city celebrating Dr. David Burton's Elliot Eisner Award win, and attending sessions that will increase and enhance my toolbox of skills, techniques, and tricks to continue to advance the education I help craft along with my students for their growth!

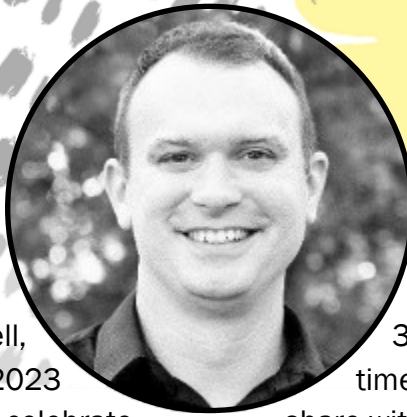
While these experiences provide me with a significant refresh, they are only two events per year that cover approximately 8-9 days of the year. So, what can we do to feed our souls and re-

fresh our outlook for the remainder of the time. I know for me, I have to schedule time for myself to create, even if it is only a short period once or twice per week. One of my newest ways of easing art and creating into my daily life is to carry blank artist trading cards with me at all times. While I am sitting in a meeting I can doodle and listen at the same time. On my return trek from San Antonio, I was sitting in the airport waiting for my flight when two little boys from another flight saw me drawing. They kept moving closer trying to see what it was I was doing. They finally came right up to me and speaking rapid fire Spanish asked me questions, to which I had no idea how to reply, until eventually one of them pointed at my drawing and then to himself. I asked him if he would like it as I held it out to him. He quickly grasped it and pointed to his friend and then to my tin of cards. I handed his friend one as well, and off they raced back to their parents showing them their new treasure. My cup ran over that day from the interaction with those two little boys, and I was never more thankful that I had art to help reset and refresh my "why".



Advocacy

Jimi Herd



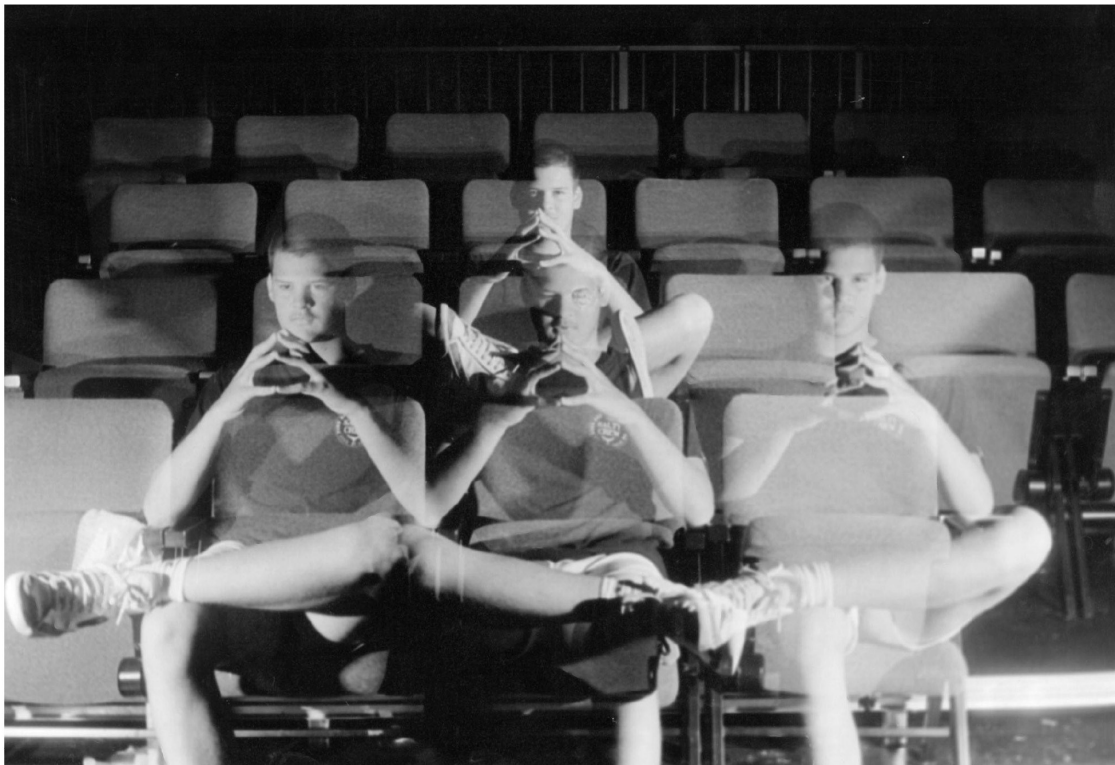
I hope this newsletter finds you well, and enjoying the final months of the 2023-24 school year! As you reflect and celebrate another outstanding year, consider the many ways to stay connected, refresh your practice, and be an arts advocate all summer long! Taking time to practice and experience the power of the visual arts ourselves by attending exhibitions, visiting galleries and museums, and creating in your studio, all help to refresh and rejuvenate our calling as art educators! Consider these top seven ways to recharge your arts advocacy practices this summer!

1. Display artworks in your school office for the summer months in keeping the arts visible all summer.
2. Create a list of local art events happening throughout the summer to share with students, parents and school staff to keep your commu-

nity connected to the arts.

3. Take time to refresh by spending time in your studio and making art to share with students in the fall.
4. Stay connected with VAEA colleagues by attending livestream events.
5. Document trips to galleries and museums to share art opportunities with students and colleagues in the fall.
6. Get a head start for next year and if you have not done so, create a list of local and state legislators to reach in advocating for the arts.
7. Choose a recent arts education book or article to sharpen your knowledge as an arts educator.

As always, reach out to the VAEA Helpline this summer for questions and support of your program as you reflect and restart, looking towards next year. We can connect you with an expert in the field. Have a great summer!



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

Social Media

Jess Beach



Exciting news: our online sessions are being posted on our VAEA's YouTube Channel! Each month we feature two sessions on our Facebook LIVE, including one **MMMArt (Monday Museum Moment)** where we focus on a Virginian Art Museum or Gallery and

ThinkFAST (Friday Art Share for Teachers)

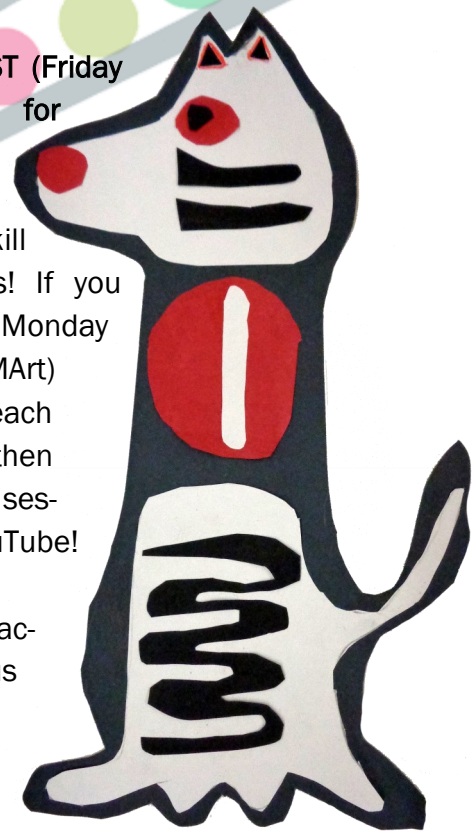
where we ask a member to share a skill or technique with us! If you can't make the 2nd Monday of each month (MMMArt) or the last Friday of each month (ThinkFAST) then you can catch the sessions now on YouTube! Please scan the code below to access our account or follow us @vaARTed .

VAEA PRESENTATIONS

SCAN ME!
TO VIEW OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



@VAARTED 



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



Awards

Meghan Hamm



This year at the 2023 NAEA Conference in San Antonio, Texas, a few of our VAEA colleagues were honored with awards. Please help me congratulate the award winners this year!

Karin Tollefson-Hall was awarded the Virginia Art Educator of the Year Award.

Michael Gettings was awarded the National Supervision and Administration Art Education Award.

Justin Sutters was awarded the Chapter Sponsor Award of Excellence.

Our YAM team, starring **Jauan Brooks** and **Kelley Shradley**, were awarded the Youth Art Month Award of Excellence.

And, **Dr. David Burton** received the Eisner Lifetime Achievement Award!

Congratulations to you all!

If you want to celebrate the dedication of a fellow art educator, you can help shape their future role in VAEA by nominating someone for an award. 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.

Dates for nomination packet submission:

August 30, 2023- Regional Presidents

September 15, 2023- Awards Chair

WHAT TO INCLUDE?

Nomination packets include: (on VAEA website under Awards)

1. Nomination Form
2. Nomination letter
3. NAEA Vita

4. Two additional letters supporting the nomination
5. Digital image of nominee
6. Pictures and video clips of nominee in the art room/ special projects, student/ personal art work, etc.

Get started now with your vita and include everything you do. For more information and helpful hints, please visit: <http://www.vaea.org/awards.html> . And, please let me know if you need any assistance or have questions about the awards process.



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

Supervision and Administration

Mike Kalafatis



AI in Art Education

It's strange writing an article that will be outdated on arrival. However, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and its effect on Art Education needs to be discussed by our supervision team, because it's already here. In early January, one of my high school art teachers informed me that he wrote all of his student recommendations using ChatGPT. My initial reaction was, I need to learn more.

AI will change education. Many of these changes will be for the better and make our lives easier. And some of these advancements will be for the worse and render entire professions obsolete.

One of the biggest concerns is the lack of ethical oversight that puts technology in the hands of so many people without fully grasping its capability or how it can be manipulated to exploit the uniformed. One of the AI generating apps can mimic your voice using only three seconds of audio. Imagine how quickly scammers will utilize that capability to take advantage of our kids. Think how the 'Like' button has transformed social behavior and its' impact on student sense of self. So, imagine the countless issues AI will raise in homes and at school.

The largest technology companies in the world continue to maximize profit over a slower, more cautious approach. However, Microsoft, Facebook (Meta) and Google can't afford to miss out on where this is going.

Students and educators across the country now have access to AI generated search engines and have begun to stretch the parameters of what we thought they were capable of. And, in many ways that's what a lot of these competing companies want- your attention, your dependence, and the millions of free questions and scenarios that will make this technology better.

The most popular and powerful AI chatbot is known as ChatGPT. This web-based chatbot is created by a company called Open AI. This company is the same one that made the AI powered image generator called 'Dolly' that won an art competition in Ohio months ago.

The biggest concern you hear from most educators is: how we will know what's original? How will this affect students' creativity? How will it affect ours? Will we have to go back to blue books and pencils when taking a test or create art only in front of our instructors? I doubt we'll realisti-

cally require those types of measures. However, we're going to need to stay on the forefront of these conversations. Right now, most of the ChatGPT-4 generated answers to questions are a little unnatural, however, every week these apps and programs improve.

One of the benefits for our teachers is it will allow them to create and adapt lessons more efficiently and they can more easily align those plans to state and national standards. We can also create more meaningful, personalized professional development that can be modified by the teacher in real time.

There is an element to this that will benefit creative thought. This technology will allow us to brainstorm ideas, and to create thumbnail like images that will leverage possibilities that we can't even imagine right now.

Ultimately, impactful educators create learners for the jobs of tomorrow. Art teachers will have to continue pushing students to examine their humanity, and how creativity can be tapped. Despite the roadblocks to a traditional artistic process being accelerated, we're still going to need to push and guide students to utilize these tools in an authentic, transformative way. As leaders, we're going to have to think through questions we haven't even received yet. And figure out how we can best use this technology to benefit our teachers and students.

Practice what you preach.

One of the biggest regrets I have in my current role is how I've let my own personal artistic practice fade. I have countless excuses on why this is. However, I realize carving out time to create is an essential part of who I am personally and professionally.

This coming year, I'd like to see our team refocus energy on not just our students and teachers' artistic practice, but our own. Many of you are very prolific. However, I'm sure there are several of you who feel similar.

Let's revisit strategies our administration team can use to improve our personal practice. And even strategies we can utilize to collaborate and engage our Music, Dance and Theatre friends.

Virginia Commission for the Arts

Lorraine Crilley

The VCA's new Artist Engagement Coordinator, Lorraine Crilley

Happy spring to VAEA and to art educators and administrators across the Commonwealth! I wanted to kick off this introduction by thanking everyone who welcomed me at my first VAEA board meeting in January. It was a pleasure to attend alongside Casey Polczynski, the VCA's former Arts Education Coordinator (now Deputy

Director), and to meet the passionate individuals comprising the VAEA board. Getting a first-hand look into new policies, research and initiatives, that are shaping the next generation of Virginia learners helped give some greater context on how the VCA can inform and re-

shape its priorities in arts education. Supporting VAEA's mission aligns strongly with the Virginia Commission for the Arts' continued commitment to arts education.

I am inspired everyday by the incredible artists I work with closely in this new role. I want to reiterate that our state has such immense artistic talent and history to be celebrated! As Artist Engagement Coordinator, I am the point of contact for VCA grant programs geared towards Virginia's individual artists. This includes both our Touring and Teaching Artist Rosters, our Arts in Practice program



(formerly known as AIE) and Artist Fellowships. In addition to supporting Virginia's arts organizations, envisioning a separate grant bucket that elevated individual artists was integral to the VCA's grant refresh, which took place in late 2022. This grant refresh process, under the direction of VCA's new Executive Director Margaret Hancock, was featured in NASAA's February's newsletter and coincided with

a complete brand refresh as a state agency!

A little bit about myself: I currently reside in Richmond, where I graduated from VCU with a BFA in Printmaking. I am thrilled to see a resurgence of printmaking and the growth of new print facilities, making this artform more accessible to the public.

Not only is printmaking fun and economical, but the discipline maintains a wild spark for revolutionizing how media is dispersed and acts as an agent for social change. When I'm not in the office or visiting our incredible grantees across the state, I'm usually pursuing my love of classical piano and exploring Church Hill with my fiancé and our retired greyhound rescue dog.

I look forward to cultivating the VCA's relationship with the VAEA and welcome any feedback on how we can continue to grow Virginia's vibrant arts ecosystem!



Jo'Shiah, 4th Grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen

Division News

Elementary

Scott Russell



Greeting elementary art stars! It's that "end of the year time." Are you already on the beach staring languidly at the ocean... or is that all in your head because you're staring out at your hyperactive class after state testing and questioning not only their behavior but also your own sanity? Either way our mind is resetting, and we are working towards our well-deserved time to refresh our own art spirits. I'm sure each of you already have a long list in mind of how you plan to do just that. Let me offer you some of my ways to help ease out of the current year with grace and planning for next year.

Do some research - Research? What! Yes, we do it, and we forget to call it that. But it helps you and it also gives your classes a chance to really reflect on their own learning. Here's what I do:



I take photos of student works (or my own teacher samples) and put them up for students to see. You can do this as a written activity, by show of hands, through technology - whatever. But instead of asking which lesson did you like/not like, how about these:

Which artwork challenged you most? Why?

Which artwork are you most proud of? Why?

Which artwork do you wish you had been given more time to work on?

Which artwork helped you see yourself grow as an artist? How?

Which artwork was your favorite? Why?

This gives you data to reflect on for your next year. Maybe there's a lesson you've thought about "retiring" or one that you aren't sure they get. Ask them - this is something I've done with all levels and am usually surprised at many of the responses. Plus letting your students see all that they have done is also good for them to acknowledge their accomplishments.

Create the art for next year - 4th graders are charged with designing and creating the "Welcome Back" posters that are put up right away (and stay up the 1st month of school while I do other work). I do this with 4th grade because the incentive for good quality work is attention to what they are doing. If they find their poster (having I, as their client, 'purchased' their work) and they get a prize or incentive when they come back in 5th grade. I give simple criteria. We welcome back grade levels, subjects, celebration, areas of the building. I encourage our bilingual students to create a poster in their dual language. It encourages creative problem solving as I challenge them to make a poster I've never seen before.

Your Poster Design specifications:



- Have Welcome or Welcome Back
- Have a border/frame drawn on 4 sides
- Have a mascot related item
- Have every word spelled correctly
- Not include a teacher's name

Hope those ideas help you as you wrap up this year and hit the reset button for next year!

Middle

Kristie Hein



Make Time to Reset and Refresh

Summer greetings Middle Division teachers! I hope that these summer months are bringing you reprieve from the stresses of the school year.

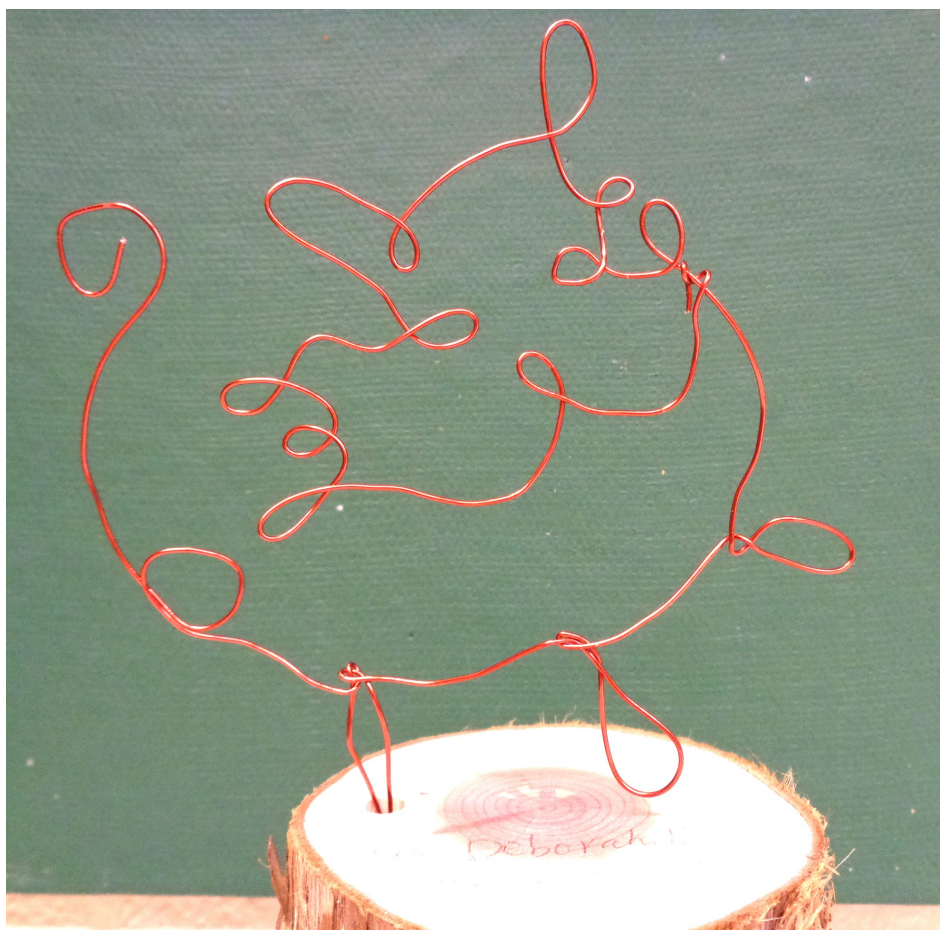
The purpose of summer vacation is for the recreation of body, mind and spirit. As art teachers, recreation will likely involve making your own personal art, and visiting museums and galleries. Art teachers are so intertwined with art as a way of life that it can be even more difficult for us to fully disconnect from the art teacher part of us for a solid reset.

Make time to consciously unplug for your own personal reset. Meaning, completely step away from any work focus for at least two weeks. Turn off social media notifications and do not open work email. If things come your way, set them the side to look at on a specific date and time in the future. During this time, be present for you. Reconnect with your passions and connect with your people. Create art just for the sake of it. Nurture your spirit in whatever way you know

best.

After a minimum of two weeks, go ahead and plug back in, but this time with set parameters on your time. Remember, summer vacations are hard earned and well deserved weeks in the year where you actually control your

time to some degree. Envision how you want the next school year to unfold. What boundaries will you set professionally to prevent burnout? What goals can you set and how can you achieve them? What meaningful experiences can you plan that will bring joy and meaning to the communities you serve? Structuring time in the summer to front-load your school



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

year will help lessen the stress that the beginning of the year brings.

May your summer bring you time to unplug and reset, providing you with personal and professional rejuvenation to start the 2023-24 school year ready to serve our students and school communities.

Division News Secondary

Andrea Stuart



Spring is the time of year to rewind and reset ourselves just as the cycle of nature resets through Springtime beauty and renewal.

I am honored to be the new Secondary Division Chair. I will be reaching out to all of you to help get other secondary art educators involved in our amazing State organization. I hope to encourage you all to think of your favorite lessons and present one at conference. Encourage a colleague who is not a member to join our tribe of fearless amazing art educators. Conference alone is worth the price of membership. Sometimes we find a new twist to an old lesson, sometimes it is just fun to play art student.

I am hearing similar concerns in all disciplines on the secondary level. Many students are not responsible for their own material, doing their assignments, losing their work, feeling they are entitled to a good grade regardless of effort and not feeling the need to strive for excellence. I do not blame

COVID, nor parents, so how can we reset this state of mind? This is our challenge as we move forward in the spring to refocus and inspire our youth. We need all of them to strive for excellence in all they are doing. Let's make the last quarter of this school year truly inspiring for our students. It's time to shake off the frustration and start anew as we approach the final stretch of our school year. Remember we are shaping the future of our world. I would love your suggestions of topics or hands on things you would all love to see at conference. Please let me know: Go to Regions/Divisions>Secondary. There you will also find helpful resource links. My email is there as well for you to provide any ideas or additional resources. This is your organization and we want to help fulfill your needs as creative artistic educators.



4th and 5th grade students, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen

Higher Education

Karin Tollefson-Hall

Refresh Your Student Chapter

I hope that the recent NAEA conference in San Antonio was a chance to reset and refresh professional networks and scholarly endeavors for all who were fortunate enough to attend. I would like to draw attention to one of our outstanding Virginia higher education members who was honored at the conference. **Congratulations to Dr. Justin Sutters, for receiving the 2023 NAEA Preservice Chapter Sponsor Award of Excellence!** I acknowledge the tremendous service and dedication to student professional growth required by Dr. Sutters and all our faculty student chapter sponsors. If you are a new student chapter advisor, or the advisor at your institution has changed, please reach out and let me know so that I can keep in touch with information relevant to student chapters and the VAEA conference.

"King of Paper Crowns & Plastic Swords"



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



Becoming a registered chapter and joining the preservice division of NAEA/VAEA is an important step in becoming a highly qualified art educator. Preservice members receive the same benefits of membership as other divisions at a reduced rate acknowledging their student status. Open the door for your students to access all the NAEA and VAEA resources practicing educator take advantage of on a daily basis by helping them join. If you weren't already aware, the Preservice Division has an elected Director and Representatives from each NAEA Region. Your student chapter members could serve in these roles, just like Past-Preservice Division President and JMU alum Tori Jackson. Contacts for the current Preservice Board members and more information on the division is on the NAEA website under the "Community" tab. <https://www.arteducators.org/community/articles/78-preservice-division>

Here you will also be able to access the **Student Chapter Registration Form**. The registration form must be submitted once each year, so be proactive in assisting your student chapter officers to collect member information and get it turned in at the start of the academic year. Thank you for your work this academic year. I wish everyone a wonderful summer filled with plenty of opportunities to refresh what is most important to you.

Division News Museum Education

Laura McManus



It's time to make plans to "Reset, Refresh and (Re)Visit" your favorite art museums! Without the stress of the school year, summer is the perfect time to find inspiration and feed your creativity soul. Looking at art is part of our job, how cool is that?! Here are a few suggestions to get your juices flowing:

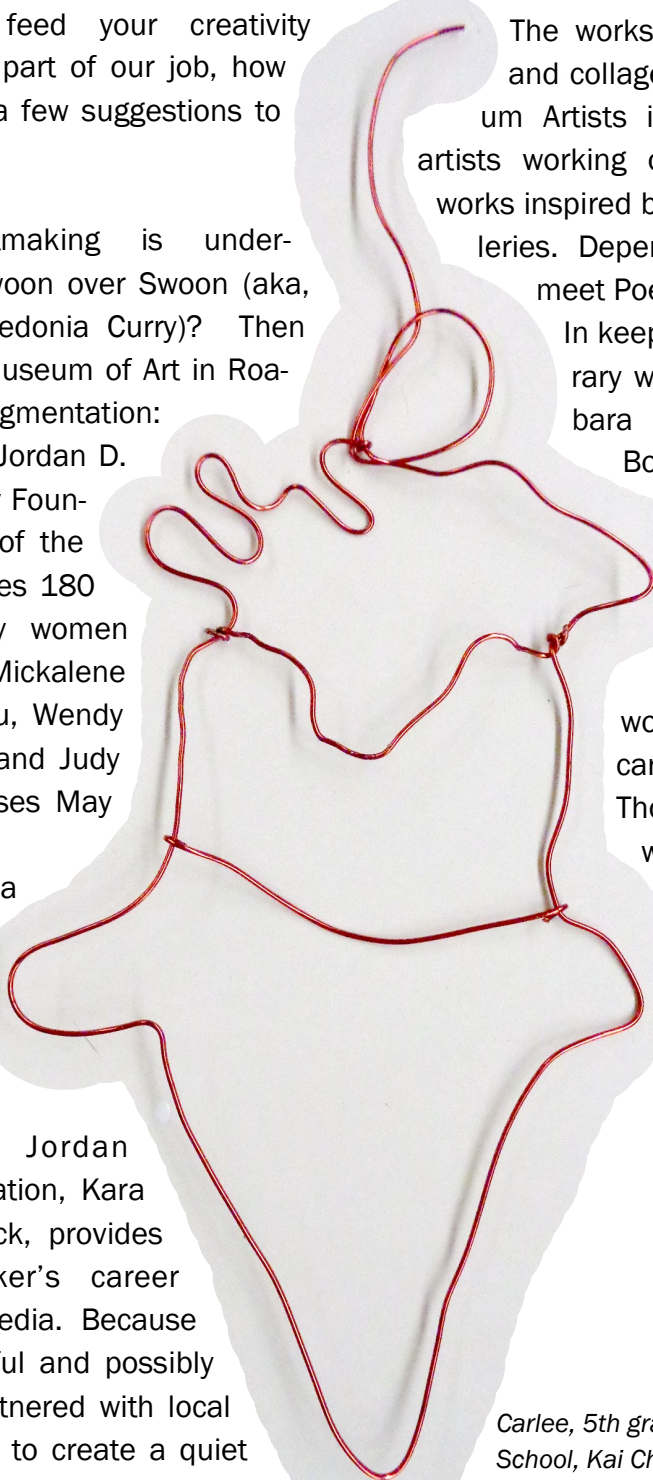
Do you think printmaking is underappreciated? Do you swoon over Swoon (aka, contemporary artist Caledonia Curry)? Then hurry to the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke to see Positive Fragmentation: From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation. The show, one of the best I have seen, features 180 prints by contemporary women artists such as Swoon, Mickalene Thomas, Wangechi Mutu, Wendy Red Star, Kara Walker and Judy Chicago. Exhibition closes May 14.

Virginia MOCA in Virginia Beach has two excellent exhibitions on view until June 11. Again, from the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, Kara Walker: Cut to the Quick, provides an overview of Walker's career through a variety of media. Because Walker's work is powerful and possibly triggering, VA MOCA partnered with local business Get Well Soon to create a quiet

space within the exhibition for rest and reflection. Brilliant! LaToya M. Hobbs: Flourish features large-scale portraits of women from the artist's community. The works combine printmaking, painting and collage. The museum's innovative Atrium Artists in Residence Program features artists working on-site in the atrium, creating works inspired by the exhibitions in the main galleries. Depending when you visit, you can meet Poetry Jackson or Nadd Harvin.

In keeping with my theme of contemporary women artists, I recommend Barbara Earl Thomas: The Illuminated Body at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk. The exhibition features new portraits by this celebrated artist (Woohoo!), including her signature cut-and-layered paper works and glass vessels with sand-carved imagery. Subjects include Thomas' friends and neighbors, as well as African American literary heroes like playwright August Wilson. You have until August 20 to see this one.

I hope you have a great, restorative summer!



Carlee, 5th grade, O.B. Gates Elementary School, Kai Chen

Policy

Barbara Laws



Since the last VAEA News, the legislature has met. During the 2023 short session, a number of bills were proposed which were related to education and had the potential to impact arts education if only tangentially. The one bill of this type which did pass was SB1277 which directed the VA Board of Education to develop standards for 11th and 12th grade students to earn one-half credit per semester “for employment in certain fields or industries or participation in certain community-based fine arts programs in which such student works or participates a certain minimum number of hours per week for each week of the semester, as determined by the Board”. While supporting the intent of the bill but having concerns about implementation should the bill become law, as part of our position statement, the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education asked that the following be taken into consideration:

- Students involved should be aspiring arts professionals or have high interest in the arts as a primary avocation.
- Externship, internship, and employment arts experiences that qualify for academic credit should complement not supplant standards-based sequential arts courses.
- Academic credit should not be earned through stand-alone internships, externships, or employment. Like other high-quality work-based learning experiences, arts placements should be connected to a course and include practical applications of coursework.

- To qualify for academic credit the placement must provide opportunities for authentic arts experiences and reinforce Virginia's 5 C's and Workplace Readiness Standards.

- School officials approving these work-based learning experiences for credit should have a knowledge base in the arts, preferably as licensed arts educators.
- The VDOE Fine Arts Coordinator, arts education associations, the Virginia Coalition for Fine Arts Education, and other arts educators should be involved in developing the standards for this program.
- The bill as amended to include collaborating with and seeking input from the VDOE and VCFAE as requested, did pass both chambers unanimously and was signed by the Governor.

The publicly accessible interactive Virginia Arts Education Data Project data dashboard is up and running at the link at the end of the article.

Arts education courses and student enrollment can be searched down to the classroom level and comparisons made across the state using data from the Department of Education. Try it out!

<https://sites.google.com/view/virginia-coalition-for-fine-ar/arts-ed-data-dashboard/va-arts-ed-dashboard?authuser=0>



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

Division News

Preservice

Raeven Harris



I do not know how February was for everyone else, but personally, it felt as though my teachers collectively decided that it was time to challenge their students.

Every day was go-go-go, and it was difficult to even breathe, let alone feel like I'm retaining knowledge.

I understand logically they did not do this on purpose. It takes about 2 weeks to get students used to their new routine and schedule, one week to really start their learning, and then the next 2-3 weeks to see how we apply our new-found knowledge. As much as it feels that every teacher is conspiring against us students, they are not! It is just the way the academic calendar falls so that everything is compacted, and they must do what is optimal for learning in these times.

Luckily, spring break is right now, and all the stu-

dents and teachers can take some time for rest. Without the proper rest, we cannot hope to jump back into the swing of the school year and do our best. This is the perfect time for self-care. Personally, this week will be dedicated to relaxation and preparation; there are many binge-watches, baths, and Sims games in my future. But I will also be writing a list of habits I thought were helpful during the school session, and those that did not lead to a better learning experience. Then I will reflect on those habits to see what I want to bring with me for the rest of the semester. We want to end strong. We want to be the best teachers we can for our students. We want to be the best version of ourselves for ourselves. Use these scheduled breaks as a time for reflection, a time to just chill, and a time to prepare.

Continued from Holly Bess Kincaid

tion!

While I am still able to enjoy watching recordings from NAEA23 virtually, I am already getting excited for our fall VAEA Conference that will be held in Harrisonburg in November 16-18th! Start planning your presentations and make plans to find your way to the beautiful Blue Ridge region for an event not to be missed! Our VP Cheryl Miehl along with our Blue Ridge President are making plans for many opportunities that will be sure to be an event to be THANKFUL for this fall! Save the date, make plans, and we foresee "Art on the Horizon" for all!

I am thankful for our VAEA Board and all their efforts to support you in your service towards art education. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to our VAEA Hotline for resources, men-

torship and advice as you navigate challenges. You can find a link to share your questions on our VAEA website and our VAEA Members and Fellows will be glad to give support.

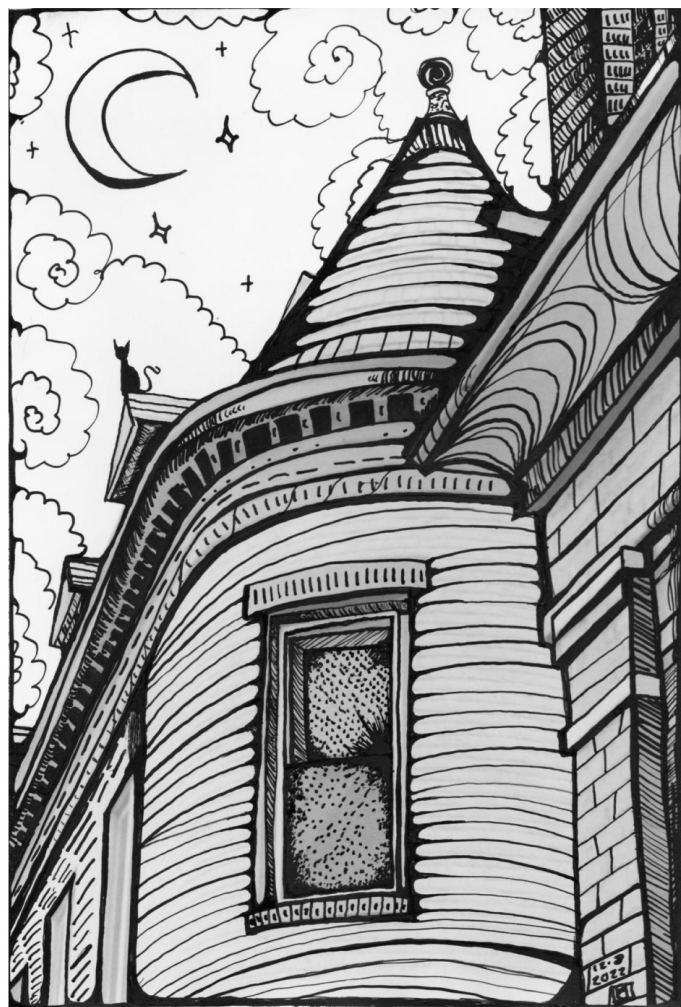
I encourage you to take time this spring to take a walk, reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of the year, create plans for new ways to inspire in the fall, and spend time with those you cherish. Perhaps you can make plans for a gallery trip, take a few minutes to create art for you, or plant seeds that will bring bright spots for the days ahead! Find your joy in the little "ah-ha" moments in your classroom that give us all hope for a creative future. You are a child's favorite teacher, the bright spot in their day and YOU are the creativity ambassador leading the way for students to discover, ideate, create, and evaluate their visual voice.

Photos from the **2023 NAEA Conference**





Cole, 12th Grade, Auburn High School, Dianna Hale



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



Makayla, Avery, Londyn and Madelyn, 2nd Grade, A.M. Davis Elementary School, Sean Collins



Chase, 1st Grade, A.M. Davis Elementary School, Sean Collins



Ivy, 8th Grade, Oak Knoll Middle School, Kate Sapp



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



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

Let's Talk Money

Where do your registration fees go?

Planning is already underway for the VAEA Fall Professional Development Conference. Proposals for presentations are being collected, contracts have been signed and special events are being designed. The VAEA Board and the Conference Committee are committed to offering teachers across the state a meaningful, worthwhile and educational experience in November.

Have you ever wondered how the conference registration fee is determined? Or what you are getting for your money?

The state conference is filled with sessions and seminars led by volunteers, all members of the organization. If a presenter charges a fee for the session the fee only covers the cost of materials and supplies that the presenter has purchased for the presentation. Consequently, none of these fees are included in the overall registration fee. So, what is included in the registration fee?

Here are some of the costs to think about:

Keynote Speaker. One of the highlights of the conference is to meet and learn from someone with expertise in our field. A reasonable stipend is provided for this service along with other expenses for the speaker(s).

Audio Visual Equipment. As teachers we are accustomed to having any needed audio visual supplies at our fingertips. These commodities come with a price tag during the conference. The screen alone for the general session can cost thousands of dollars. There are daily charges for each screen, extension cord and projection cart in each room as well as equipment used for the electronic gallery, registration laptops and the general session.

Food. The agreement with the hotel includes the purchase of a certain amount of food and beverage. There are costly penalties if the contracted

obligation is not met.

Online registration and bank fees. The ease of using a credit card and registering online comes with a cost. There is a minimum cost for the online service no matter how many register.

Hotel Costs. In addition to the food and AV equipment the VAEA also pays for master sleeping rooms including the presidential suite. There is an obligation to "sell" our contracted block of sleeping rooms. There are costly penalties if the contracted obligation is not met. (Please keep this in mind when you make your reservation for a room...any room reservations made outside of our block do not count toward our quota.)

Storage. Items used for the running of the conference and left-over merchandise are stored in a commercial unit from one year to the next.

Student fee reduction. The VAEA is committed to growing the profession with certified art teachers. Several years ago the board passed a policy whereby College and University student registration fees for the conference would be drastically reduced to encourage their attendance and involvement in the organization. The member fee is increased in order to offset the student reduction.

Awards and supplies. The VAEA is committed to honoring outstanding art educators. Physical awards and a nominee reception are important elements of this celebration. In addition, registration supplies including name badges, paper and ink as well as all other supplies associated with putting on the conference are included in your registration fee.

Printing. The VAEA provides a professionally printed booklet to attendees for several reasons. To receive recertification points many schools require a copy of the booklet. It is also a

means of reminding participants of memorable sessions they attended or presented.

Profit. The registration fee is calculated with the intention of “breaking even” but also with the hope of having some amount of profit to contribute to the operating expenses of the VAEA.

This list is just a sampling of the costs associated with putting on a high quality, professional experience such as the VAEA conference. The 2023 Conference is shaping up to have several exciting additions and changes. Stay tuned!

Do you want to be an integral part of the 2023 Conference? Complete a proposal for a session before the deadline of June 30. The link is on our website.



Membership

Patsy Parker



It has become second nature for us as NAEA / VAEA members to perpetually start fresh and refresh, set and reset the way we function as art educators. We are connected to exceptional resources, opportunities, and innovations that inspire our career, creativity, curriculum, and beyond! By maintaining your membership, you can rely on NAEA to stay ahead of developments in the field of visual arts education. You can trust NAEA to deliver a broad perspective of current research, issues, and policy to and from colleagues around the globe who, like you, are passionate about the integral role of the visual arts in ensuring that all students receive a high-quality, effective, and well-rounded education.

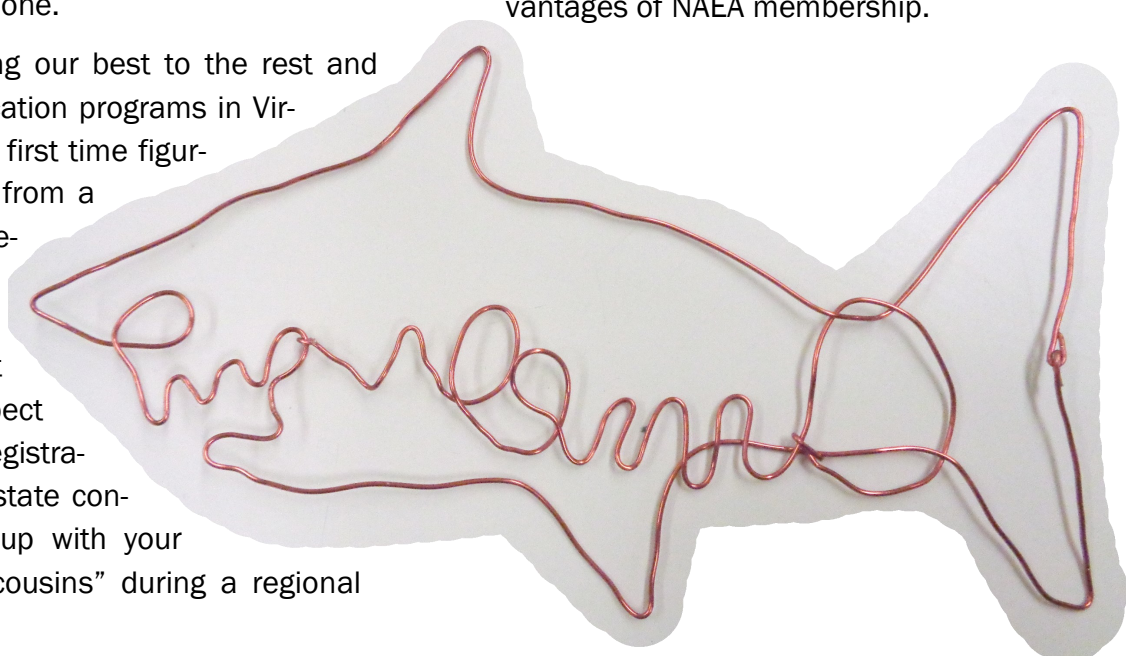
There are approximately 400 independent, private and religion affiliated schools in Virginia with art educators who are more isolated than just being the only art teacher on the faculty. They do not have readily available the resources we take for granted. We must “invite them to the table” so they may discover our resources and grow their art programs as we have done.

It’s time for us to bring our best to the rest and strengthen all art education programs in Virginia. Remember your first time figuring out your schedule from a regional workshop bulletin or the conference booklet? Do you recall the moment of not knowing what to expect and walking into the registration area at your first state conference? Or meeting up with your new family of “crazy cousins” during a regional

workshop? Then there was the actual reality of being in presentations, workshops, and general sessions with amazing speakers. You arrived as an empty vessel needing resetting or refreshing and felt so satisfied on your trip home. The impact your experiences have made on you and your curriculum has been and will continue to be priceless. You have discovered VAEA looks good on paper, but we are so much better in person!

We as career educators are forever in “gathering mode” always seeking as much knowledge as humanly attainable to make us and our profession as strong as possible. Now is the time for “sharing mode” to secure for all students in Virginia an exceptional, creative, and broader experience while they ascend on their own path of education.

If you know a private or public school art educator who needs to know who we are and what we do, please email me at p2artkrt@gmail.com and I will extend our invitation for them to discover the advantages of NAEA membership.



Research

Yiwen Wei



When was the last time you allowed yourselves to take a break from work-related things? When was the last time you consciously told yourselves to let go of something, like a student's missing assignment? The COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed our lifestyles, working, and socializing. Teachers, students, and their families were in the same boat and adapted to a virtual universe together. However, student disengagement has soared since the pandemic (Young, 2022). As students returned to the physical learning model, the research found that chronic absenteeism, disruptive behavior, and mental issues increased last year compared with pre-pandemic rates (National Center for Education Statistics, 2022). These issues are widespread across the U.S.

Work-related stress, burnout, and compassion fatigue have overwhelmed teachers since the pandemic, according to Ewing (2021). In addition, the secondary trauma developed from caring for a person who has experienced trauma takes a toll on teachers. Under the circumstances, many teachers chose to exit the profession, while the number of newly licensed teachers is decreasing (National Center for Education Statistics, 2022). As a result, finding substitute teachers becomes challenging, and teacher shortage has hit hard, particularly in high-poverty and high-minority school districts (Turner & Cohen, 2023).

I saw the manifesto "Rest is Resistance" (Hersey, 2022) mushrooming on social media. People are more aware of the importance of resting, resetting, and refreshing as a way of self-care and mindfulness. According to Hersey (2022), rest can be a form of resistance, a healing power. More importantly, the idea of active rest combats the unrealistic expectation of human productivity stemming from capitalism.

As a university faculty member, I have also observed the above mentioned student disengagement and absentee-

ism as well as my own exhaustion since the pandemic. Nevertheless, I believe that everyone did the best with what they had; everyone tried as hard as they could. I may not have all the answers to how to live a healthy life, but now, I am learning to set healthy boundaries, reserve reasonable time for rest, and allow myself to be imperfect.

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Regional Messages Central

Alex LaBarr



This school year I made the switch from elementary school to high school to work on developing a new ceramics curriculum for the county. It has been really great to switch my focus from trying to work around covid protocols, hybrid schedules and virtual students to just the subject at hand: art. Even though it's a new school, this year feels like the first "normal" year since covid. As an art teacher, I know that the best way to teach is to be creative and to be open to new ideas. However, sometimes it can be difficult to stay creative and motivated, especially when we are feeling overwhelmed or stressed. That's why it's important to take some time to reset, refocus, and find something that helps you feel refreshed.

I know for me, it's spending time exploring my own art making interests, not just fiddling around with a project example or technique for my own students. I also find talking with or visiting with other art educators can be just what I need. I love to be inspired by what others are doing either through their personal work or in their classrooms. While new to the role of CVAEA president, we've been shifting our focus back to doing things in person

since that connection is so important as educators.

We held our first Artist as Educators show since covid and had a record turnout. Titled, "Back from Hiatus" the show featured 35 pieces of work by art educators all over the central region and covered a variety of media from traditional painting to a suit made out of Lipton tea bags. The show is a celebration of art and creativity, while serving as a reminder that art is an important part of our lives. It was inspiring to see such a wide range of media, techniques and subject matter in our area. I wish you the best as you wrap up this school year and encourage you to participate with other art educators in your area to help you reset and reconnect with the numerous creative individuals in our area!



Marcus, 5th Grade, Old Donation School, Leigh Drake

Regional Messages

Blue Ridge

Melissa Combs

I am honored to be the new representative for such an amazing region of art educators and VAEA members. It is a little



intimidating in a region where I am surrounded by such talent and knowledge, but as always, they are a group so welcoming and kind. With a hard-working regional board, there are going to be great things happening around the Blue Ridge region.

Reset and Refresh is a great theme for the new regional board's approach. We have kept many of our annual workshops while also putting a new spin on them!

The Blue Ridge Exhibition of Regional Art Teachers was displayed again in the Shenandoah Valley Arts Center in February. That location has been the site of many workshops and exhibitions for us, including our embroidery workshop coming up on April 24. If you haven't been to this awesome space in downtown Waynesboro, I highly recommend it.

This year we are planning our annual May retreat in Orkney Springs but are changing up the workshop space and sleeping rooms. We hope to give members a place to spread out and learn some basketmaking techniques from our regional vice president. The retreat is scheduled from May 19 to 21.

We are hoping to schedule a workshop in Charlottesville for later this year, or after the conference. And the conference! It's in Harrisonburg, of course! Thank you to all of the flexible and hard-working people in Blue Ridge and Southwest who have volunteered so far to help make this conference a success.

Northern

Julie Cacciola

Hello Friends and Colleagues!



Greetings from the Northern Region. I hope you all are enjoying the beautiful spring that



only Virginia can offer. I always marvel at the flowering trees. It makes getting through a long month like March easier. Speaking of March, Youth Art Month was quite a success across our Region and State. Many shared their student's work during our Art Across VA Day which was March 3. This is also the time of year when several schools and communities hold their Student Art Shows. If any of you had art shows please share on social media. Also, please join our Northern VA Facebook Group. With March being such a busy month, and the lack of snow days, you are all probably exhausted, burned out, and eager for the year to end. Please make it a priority to take care of yourselves. Create some artwork of your own, get out and enjoy the spring weather, or make some time to visit with friends. Perhaps take a personal day just for you! One thing that you can do is join us on May 4, at Riverside High School in Ashburn, for our Spring Workshop. Details are on our Facebook page. I hope to see you there! In the meantime, keep on arting :).

Southwest Lauren Balint



I have to admit, recently, I have been redirecting quite a few questions from students with more questions. Why? Because I know my students know



the answer, or at least they can find ways to get to the answer without me giving them all the information. Questions like “What do I do with this (wet painting)?” get questions like “Is it wet? Where do we put wet artwork?”, from me. Or if help is needed in the process of creating something, for example tying a knot, I ask the question: “What can you remember? Can you show me what you know?” And many, many times my students can demonstrate the task with very little prompting. Some have become really good at being able to identify their errors and mistakes and fix them before I have the chance to address them. Others might need more prompting, more demonstrations, or simply more time to figure out the process, but as I remind the students, as long as they try their best, that it’s okay. Art is all about practicing! And boy, do we practice! I know that this method of “questioning” questions isn’t always the quickest, and sometimes the student can get frustrated with me for not directly answering their question, but sometimes watching the realization on the student’s face is everything. I’ve also seen my students ask each other more questions rather than asking me; I’ve seen them try to problem-solve more before asking me.

As I approach the end of this school year, I also have to remind myself that sometimes the answers I’m seeking are not going to present themselves to me as I want. But I also need to find ways to keep myself from burning out. If asking questions and allowing a child to problem solve out loud with me is what I feel like I need, I’m going to stick with it. (At least until I reach the summer when I hear a lot fewer questions.) I’m hoping to reset and refresh this summer with more art teacher friends, more art, more relaxation, and by asking a lot of questions myself as I get ready for the next school year.

Tidewater Rebecca Davidson



As the school year ends and summer approaches, it’s essential to reset and refresh. Taking a break from the demands of teaching and using this



time for rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation can help us return to our classrooms ready to inspire.

One of the things I have a hard time with is stepping away from work. I treat summer as one long planning period, which may not be healthy. We all need to give ourselves some time to recharge our batteries; that way, we can start the new school year with renewed energy and creativity.

Since disconnecting fully from work can be challenging for many of us (myself included), the summer can be a great time to reflect and reconnect. Take time to evaluate what worked and what didn’t and what changes you want to make in the upcoming year. Take some time to reflect on why you became an art teacher in the first place. Reconnecting with your purpose can help you regain focus and motivation for the coming year.

I always find inspiration from connecting with other art teachers. The annual TVAEA Summer Workshop is a great chance to meet with other art teachers, learn new techniques and approaches, and add inspiration to your teaching. Another upcoming opportunity to connect is our “Colorful Conversations” get-togethers. We will meet in a different part of our region each month for food, drinks, and art experiences. Colorful Connections is still being shaped, so let us know if you have ideas for fun, art-related activities!

Summer gives us time to pursue creative activities that are not necessarily related to work. Check out some local art classes or workshops! I want to finally take a glass-blowing class at the Chrysler Museum this summer. Speaking of local art museums, once school is out, you can check out some exhibitions during the week when things are quieter. We have so many museums and galleries in our region...take advantage of them!

Remember, taking care of yourself, and your creativity is just as important as taking care of your students.

Diversity, Equity Inclusion & Access

Tiffany Floyd



Greetings! I'm writing this article during one of the busiest times of the year for an art educator. Seasonal allergies, crazy weather patterns, time changes, Youth Art Month festivities, and culminating art shows have the ability to make us feel lethargic or overwhelmed. I encourage you to reset by exploring or revisiting

pastimes that bring you joy. I also find having positive things to look forward to can be both refreshing and provide a burst of stamina.

A great way to refresh lessons (and possibly reset thinking) is to ensure they do not encourage cultural appropriation. This includes exploitation, mimicking religious symbols or items

of cultural significance that are earned, and the inappropriate adoption of customs. We can show appreciation for other cultures by researching origins and seeking understanding of their traditions and beliefs to widen our view of the world. Stu-

dents could be given the flexibility to make authentic connections between their culture and that of others through discussions and the creation of art. This would also be a great opportunity to share aspects of your culture with students while learning more about theirs!

Do you have lessons or information regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and access you'd like to share with fellow VAEA members? If so, please consider submitting a proposal for the fall 2023 VAEA Conference. I look forward to seeing you there!



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

Youth Art Month

Jauan Brooks &
Kelly Shradley-Horst



Use YAM to Revamp and Revive

As spring settles in we often find ourselves needing an extra push to get to the end of the school year. Teachers often use the beginning of the school year as a fresh start. Coming off of summer break, we have more time and energy to try something new and to refresh ideas and programs. In winter, we have the New Year designating a time to set resolutions and new goals to start the calendar year with a growth mindset. As a teacher, when spring rolls around, the start of the school year is long gone and the New Year's resolutions have faded. The good news is that we don't need New Year's resolutions or summer break to help us reset and feel refreshed to finish the year strong. Anytime is a great time to revamp and revive.

Specifically referring to Youth Art Month, how can we reset and refresh programs or activities that feel stale or no longer bring us joy? Sometimes we get on auto pilot and continue to do the same thing each year. By doing this, we lose some of the creative joy and excitement from our programs. Selecting a different theme each year could breathe new life into the curriculum so that there is something exciting and different to highlight. Using the Youth Art Month theme could be an easy way to annually change your focus, refresh recurring lessons and easily create work (flag design - wink) that is well unified.

Searching for ways to revamp your YAM celebration? Invite guest jurors to your show to honor student artists and involve the community. Consider inviting local artists, administration, or community members to adjudicate your art show and give special awards, like the 'Van Gogh Award' or the

'Renaissance Masters Award'. If your school is struggling to observe YAM, consider celebrating others for their contributions, recognitions and achievements. Using the recognition from the Governor, state representatives or NAEA brings attention to how others honor and celebrate what each of us does in the classroom each day.

When you are developing new plans for Youth Art Month, look to celebrations across the state. The Virginia YAM portfolio shares wonderful ideas big and small that you could borrow, tweak and make your own for your classroom, school and school system. Educators don't grow in a vacuum. Utilize resources on the YAM page to jumpstart student learning and engagement.

Our student's art and voice is evident through YAM celebrations. Recently we announced the Grand Winner of the YAM flag competition - Kendall L. from Rockingham Co., Art Teacher Erin Whetzel. First through fourth place may be found on the VAEA YAM website. Congratulations to all teachers and students who shared their art and their voice through their designs.

Retiree News

Ginna Cullen &
Carla Jaranson



Time to Reset and Refresh.

Spring is such a time to get outside and enjoy nature. Blooms abound and promise fresh images of new growth. We see, hear, smell, taste and touch all that surrounds us with new life. Plan for the future with joy in our hearts and fresh inspiration to experience anew with all our senses.

We are “Retired” but still full of life and creativity. As each new year comes, we cannot believe how time has passed by so quickly. Spring is a wonderful time to look all around us to see how blessed we are and to share our creativity with others. Please share your news with Ginna and Carla.



Grand Winner of the YAM flag competition, Kendall L., Rockingham Co.; Art Teacher, Erin Whetzel.



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Youth Art Month

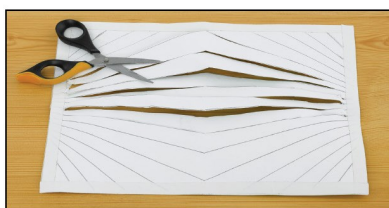
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Woven Impressionistic Paintings

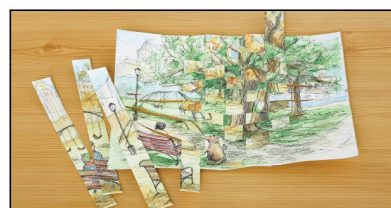
Lesson Plan for Grades 5-12



Step 1: Create two similar paintings at different times or using a different light source.



Step 2: Use one of the provided templates to draw and cut warp lines on the back side of one of the paintings.



Step 3: Using strips cut from the second piece, weave together into one painting.

Weave it all together: one scene, two impressions, and one dynamic composition with built-in perspective

Changing only the light, students paint two watercolor scenes of the same subject and composition, then weave them into a single artwork.

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