Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

**LABS (CLASSES) ARE PROVIDED AS AN EDUCATIONAL SOURCE FOR PBL (PROJECT BASED LEARNING)**

**COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Illustrated Book Journaling Club**

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: 1st-12th**

**FORMAT: IN-PERSON ONLINE FLEXIBLE**

**DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:**

**Week of Jan 24th-Week of April 18th (off during week of Nov 4th)**

**Wednesdays from 9:45-10:15am**

**Additional options can be arranged by request.**

**(Minimum of 3 students needed for any class)**

**TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 ADD’L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME):5**

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 21**

**LOCATION: Zoom**

**INSTRUCTOR: Niki McNeil**

**CONTACT INFORMATION: phone: email: website:**

**269-876-6518** [**nikimcneil@comcast.net**](mailto:nikimcneil@comcast.net)[**www.eclecticallymeniki.com**](http://www.eclecticallymeniki.com)

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED? YES NO

IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

For the time being I will not be able to utilize common spaces such as Martin’s or the Library in attempt to keep everyone safe and ensure the least risk possible.

I will also be holding classes within my home in Coloma. Please note I have friendly cats, if your student has severe allergies, it might be best to pick a different location for this semester, if your student has a fear of cats, I am happy to keep them separated please just let me know ahead of class time. When weather permits, we may meet outside.

Virtual and Flexible Courses offer the option of live classes at a set time each week or the ability for asynchronous learning where a pre-recorded lesson will be sent out each week for the student to work through and turn in prior to the next week. Live classes will use Zoom.

After signing up for any of my classes please email me at [nikimcneil@comast.net](mailto:nikimcneil@comast.net) and let me know which format you’d like to take (In-Person/Virtual-Online/or Flexile. Please pay attention to the syllabus as not all classes are available in all formats. Also include the location if you chose in person classes or the day/time if you chose virtual.

Complete supply lists will go out 2 weeks prior to classes starting to ensure that there is adequate enrollment to run the class.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS (may attach a separate page if necessary):

Art and Creativity are what get me through the day. The joy that creating provides is something that should be shared and explored by all!

I have been teaching in one aspect or another all my life, from helping in Sunday School classrooms as a teen to teaching my own classrooms at 18. I was a lead teacher for a Preschool prior to having my own family. Once I had children, I was organizing local families into craft clubs and field trips. It was only natural that we chose to homeschool. When I struggled to find a curriculum that would work well with my very hands on son and my visual daughter, I set out to create my own. This curriculum is still on the market 19 years later and being used in homeschools and classrooms across the world.

I believe all learning styles can be taught in the same space in most cases and you will find that 99% of my classes are project based for the reason. Putting the learning into the hands of the students helps retention and instills a love of learning. I teach for enjoyment and want my students to also enjoying the learning process, you will not find me teaching to a test or requesting memorization of facts. I will find fun and creative ways to get kids learning without them even realizing it most of them time. Some may call it arts and crafts, but I guarantee you your students will love it and they will learn and more importantly retain the information being taught.

I have always felt that art was important. I did not always know how to put it into words necessarily, but I realized early on that it always left me in a better mood than when I started. With our current “social distance” needs, my views on the need for a creative outlet have gone from thinking they are important to knowing they are ESSENTIAL. We need to create our own happiness and when at all possible share that joy with others.

While we are all struggling to process our thoughts and fears, our kids are also struggling to put into words what they are feeling. ART CAN HELP. It can become a way to slowly work through thoughts and feelings. Sometimes a feeling is easier expressed in color or shape than in words. And art does not always have to be in the form of a painting or drawing, but a visual representation of what they’re learning. Check out my class listings to see how many different ways arts and crafts can really be learning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW):

**As avid readers we already know we like to learn, experience, and connect through the written word, why shouldn’t a reader’s book club be the same way?! In this group learners will connect through a variety of weekly discussions and share their own reading experiences with each other.**

**Illustrated Book Journaling- where art club meets book club. This is a safe space to talk about all things books and art related.**

**Does your student need to slow down when reading? Are you looking for a way to instill a love of literature? Illustrated book journaling is a fun and creative way to not only get kids excited about reading but to help them to master reading critically (many times without them realizing it).**

**Illustrated Book Journaling provides a way for visual learners to create their own composition of the story using small drawings to help them remember the important themes of the books as well as a way to document the quotes that stood out to them in the story. It causes students to stop and reflect on a book instead of finishing and forgetting it. These skills all transfer over to the real world of book reports and research papers. Plus, it is a wonderful way to keep track of all the books you have read. I know I personally have enjoyed looking through my journal and sharing it with other avid readers and artists.**

**The group material will be often be dictated by the students enrolled. They will share what they are currently reading, their favorite reads of all times, and what’s on their to-be-read list. What we learn to draw each week will be based on what the students are reading and requesting to learn to draw for their journaling entries. Students can choose to buddy read with other group members or all be reading different books. The goal is not to discuss in depth each and every book read, but to instill a love of reading and provide a bit of accountability to read regularly while providing a social outlet with like-minded students.**

**We will talk books, share favorite quotes and passages from our stories read, learn some drawing techniques and work together to brainstorm what should be added to our journal entry for each book. As students work through the process of what to include on their journal entry for a book; we will discuss the people, places, and events that played a major role in the story. We will talk about what we learned from and want to remember about the story. We will talk about the passages of the book that stood out to us.**

**No art skills are required. Students are welcome to use stencils transfer paper or tracing paper to add objects to their journaling entry if they do not feel confident in drawing. I will have short lessons on drawing objects often found in illustrated book journaling entries (Mountains, Clocks, Buildings, etc) or objects requested by students. We will learn techniques such as balance and scale as we plan out our journal entry as well. As everyone walks away from a book with a different outlook each journal entry will be unique to the reader, we will encourage each other through this process and our different outlooks.**

**Please be courteous of other learners and choose to discuss books that are appropriate in nature for the entire class. While I know many students enjoy scarier or more controversial books, we want to stick to books that work for most readers in the group.**

**We’ll be using a free app called Slack to hold our group discussions between classes. Slack has a very flexible system allowing you to get email or pop up notifications, but also have do not disturb times where no notifications will be sent. We’ll learn the ins and outs of the platform in our first class. Students are expected to spend time in our discussions each week, plan on an additional 45 minutes per week interacting with their classmates outside of our live class.**

**We’ll start at the very beginning “What is Illustrated Book Journaling” and move on from there learning everything we can about the topic.**

**Weekly Discussions Threads**

**-What are you reading (or listening to)? - Following an outline provided**

**-Favorite quote of the week**

**-Response/Questions to classmates - “what you are reading” using outline provided**

**-Illustrated Journaling brainstorming**

**Ongoing Class Threads:**

**-To Be Read Lists**

**-Favorite Reads**

**-Illustrated Book Journaling Shares**

**Supply List:**

**A Good Illustrator Pen (I prefer Faber Castell XS)**

**A Ruler (I prefer clear or see through and 6 inch length)**

**Pencil**

**Eraser (Large rubber eraser is best)**

**A Journal with Quality Paper (I prefer a 6x9 inch dotted journal)**

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASEDLEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

*Describe activities that w ill reinforce the lesson. Include any w ork and time to be required outside of class:*

*Each week we will create a new drawing project using a variety of techniques and styles to reinforce the major elements of art. I will also challenge students to expand their creative thinking and use art as a way of expression.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Art is an immersion activity. You can spend years learning things like line, shape, texture, form, space, color, value, balance, symmetry. Each lesson we’ll reinforce one or more of these concepts creating more well-rounded artists.*Steps to check for student understanding, along w ith dates or # of w eeks into class:*

*Weeks 1-4: We’ll work through our lessons and I’ll assess the students final drawings for areas of need*

*Weeks 5-8: We’ll work on improving those areas with targeted lessons and projects.*

*Weeks 9-14: We will continue to strengthen each of these areas and do more difficult drawings as the semester goes on.*

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

1. Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
2. The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the

teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

**Class-specific assessment:** discuss and include the form or a link to the form that you use.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):

-         Any type of quality art paper or sketchbook, cardstock (one labeled multi-media)  
-         Pencil and Eraser  
-         Ruler  
-        Coloring Medium of choice: Colorful Felt tip or ball point pens, extra fine point Markers, Gel Pens, colored pencils or water paints (I will be using all depending on the project)  
-         Black Fine Point Illustration Pens (5 pack is ideal)

- 40-50 Graph Paper Index Cards or a graph/dotted sketchbook to practice their designs on

CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

**Attendance: Please let me know if your learner will not be in class whenever possible. I try to wait for all students to begin teaching and not knowing causes delay for no reason. If I know in advance, I am happy to prepare a virtual make up lesson for the student.**

**Weather: I follow the local school districts weather based decisions when possible. If either the district I live in (Coloma) or the district the class is held in (South Haven/Lakeshore etc) cancels for the day we will not have class in person. If we have more then 1 weather related cancelation a semester the rest will be moved to virtual to avoid the need for make-up hours.**

**Other: I expect students to be kind and respectful keeping our class a safe space for all students to explore their creativity.**