

# Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

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

## COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Art Journaling/Zentangle

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

FORMAT:  IN-PERSON  ONLINE  FLEXIBLE

DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:

Week of Sept 13<sup>th</sup>-Week of Dec 6<sup>th</sup> (off during week of Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>)

Mondays in Coloma 2-3:20 or Wednesdays 12-1:20

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):

TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 16

LOCATION: Coloma or South Haven

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 continue to teach in South Haven at First Baptist Church as I am able to use a space not being shared by others and bring in my own table and chairs. 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 can 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 and Flexible classes will utilize Padlet, a free app/website (no sign in required) to host our work, discussions and collaborations.

Virtual classes have the ability to be once per week for 80 minutes or twice per week for 40 minutes each so pay attention to the schedule when choosing.

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):

### What is Art Journaling?

"On the surface, an art journal is simply a bound journal filled with color, art, or imagery with words. But when you start asking journal artists what art journaling is to them... you'll get a variety of answers. Some may tell you it's a place to work out their ideas, or to practice and document their growth as an artist. While others may explain that it's a safe container for their feelings, or a retreat to escape from stress, or a place to explore their inner landscape. It can be a place to practice following your intuition, to expand your comfort zone with the unknown, to play with new art supplies, a place to heal, to reduce stress, to learn more about who you really are... What it comes down to... is that art journaling is really only defined by what YOU say it is." Kristal Norton

Kristal said it well, in this class I will help each student make their journal one of their favorite possessions. Artistic students will build confidence in their journaling ability and strong writers will find freedom in being artistic. Each week students will find they are learning more about who they are as a person and who they want to be in the future. The important thing to remember in this class is there are no wrong answers, it's about personal growth and happiness. No two journals will look the same, every age can benefit from this process.

### What is Zentangle?

This class is inspired by the Zentangle way of drawing. We will learn 2-3 new patterns each week and work towards mixing them together in bigger creations. We will work with illustration pens, learning how the different nib sizes affect each pattern and when to use a thicker or thinner pen. Students will learn a better understanding of balance, symmetry, and weight in art.

We are our own worst critics. This class is to help us take our own art less seriously while also taking art in general more seriously. Students will learn that growth in a subject matter such as art comes from repetition and breaking larger more complex drawings into simple shapes. After just a few short weeks parents often notice a surprising increase in their student's confidence level. We will be covering many different art styles and techniques in this class.

*A student recently told me after 3 weeks of working with them that "art isn't as hard as I thought it was going to be and I kind of like it now"*

The goal of this class is to create that safe space for kids to express themselves and create lifelong friendships all while they are creating art. Some weeks I will offer examples of how to add journaling into their art, introducing them to the concept of art journaling slowly over time. These journaling additions are a great way to add thought processing and reflection in a time where our kids need an outlet more than ever. I will also introduce patterning and Zentangle inspired art throughout the semester.

It is my hope that students will relate to each other through their art and realize that even though we are each unique, being different is ok, in fact being different is awesome!

## SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASED LEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

*Describe activities that will reinforce the lesson. Include any work 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 with dates or # of weeks 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 (or one labeled multi-media)
- Pencil and Eraser
- Ruler
- Markers, Gel Pens, and or colored pencils (I will be using all 3 depending on the project)
- Black Fine Point Illustration Pens (.3-.8 nib size) or Extra Fine/Fine Tipped Sharpie

## 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 than 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.