

Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

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

COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Virtual Art- Learn to Draw and About Animals

GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: 1st-12th

FORMAT: IN-PERSON **ONLINE** **FLEXIBLE**

DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:

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

Tues/Thurs 6-6:40pm

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: Zoom

INSTRUCTOR: Niki McNeil

CONTACT INFORMATION: phone: email: website:

269-876-6518 nikimcneil@comcast.net 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 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 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):

Each week we will gather and learn a few fun facts about the animal of the week all while completing a drawing/art project. This is part animal trivia, part project based, and all fun!

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. 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!

For examples of the types of drawings we will be doing in this class please see the teacher expertise section where a link to my student’s art portfolio is provided. If you have a student who typically feels they “can’t draw” this is the perfect class for them. I have been working with students who do not see themselves as artists for the last 7 years and have had these same students who were forced to attend the class the first session, beg to continue on, many I’ve had in class for 3-4 years. This is not a draw this in this exact way, which is what helps these students be successful. The goal for me is to have no students works of art be identical, I encourage them to change things up and follow their gut.

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.

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”

To get an idea of the types of projects we’ll be doing in this class check out my student portfolio:

<https://www.eclecticallymeniki.com/student-art-journaling-examples>

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.