Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

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

**COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Exploring the Arts with Cats**

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

**FORMAT IN-PERSON (with enough interest) ONLINE FLEXIBLE**

**DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:**

**Week of Jan 9th-Week of March 27th**

**Virtual Fridays at 9am**

**In person if enough demand options can be arranged please reach out ASAP**

**TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 ADD’L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME): 8**

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 24**

**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: Please email me and let me know which day/time you would like if the class has more than 1 option

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 55 minutes.

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.

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):

**Who doesn’t love Cats?!?!**

My students are always begging to draw another cat, week after week. So per their request I’m now offering this fun Exploration of Art with Cats. Each week we’ll draw a cat in a new art style, inspired by a famous artist, or using a new art technique. You’ll find cats from impressionistic to graffiti, from Mondrian to Van Gogh inspired, and geometric to pointillism. Students will get to really explore a large variety of art types and techniques helping them pull their favorite parts of each and develop their own artistic style.

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

*Describe activities that w ill 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. Each week a bonus lesson will be sent out via video for students to explore on their own.*

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 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 (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

- We will be using paint for some of our projects so heavy mixed media paper is a must for those weeks.

- A variety of watercolor and acrylic paint in basic colors

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.**