Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

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

**COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE:** **Digital Publishing, Write, Illustrate and Publish Your Own Book**

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: 3rd -12th**

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

**DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:**

**Week of September 11th-Week of December 4th**

**Fridays at 3:15pm Every other week**

**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 and Flexible In Person Option**

**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 this course we’ll have lots of work at your own pace assignments which will be sent via video links. This type of creative process thrives in a group/brainstorming format so I will be offering a 1 hour meet up to keep students accountable and to build the excitement of what everyone is doing every other week, alternating virtual and in person in Coloma. Students are required to attend at least one a month to meet class minimums.

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):

Learn to publish your very own picture book. In this course you’ll learn tons of great skills such as:

* developing a main character and creating character profiles
* you’ll learn the different parts of a story that make it ‘work’
* digital illustration
* procreate illustration
* character development and creation
* cover design
* KDP publishing

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:

1. Character Profiles
2. Introduction to Procreate and digital illustration
3. Begin our story outline
4. Digital Character Body Proportions and Stances
5. Continue Story Outline
6. Face proportions and showing emotion
7. Character Profiles
8. Finish Story Outline
9. Drawing your character
10. First Draft
11. Cover Design
12. KDP Publishing

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.):

Ipad with Procreate program installed (there is a small fee for procreate)

Apple Pencil for Ipad

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.**