

April 8, 2020

Letter of Application

Kristine Monaco-Walsh

Bristol Central High School

Art Education -Grades 9-12

I am interested in becoming a Cooperating Teacher/ TEAM mentor because I remember the challenges of student teaching, and I have much to offer a future teacher with my experiences in both teaching in the classroom and my own personal art career. Also, I have wanted to become a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM mentor in the past because I don't feel there are enough Art Education mentors available.

I am interested in becoming a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM mentor because I believe that a positive student teaching experience is an essential part of being prepared and successful for a very competitive and important career in Art Education. The experience I have in working with a diverse population from the start of my career in teaching has had a positive influence on my own personal growth. I am interested in becoming a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM mentor because I would like to help someone else have a good experience with both the methodological aspects and the personal aspects of student teaching.

Hold a professional educator certificate:

I have a BS degree in Art Education (2006) and a Master's degree in Special Education with a cross endorsement (2016). My education and experience in Special Education give my students further advantages and benefits in my art classroom.

Demonstrate ability to be reflective and articulate about the craft of teaching:

As of date, our district and most states are distant learning due to COVID-19. In one day, teaching completely changed because of circumstances beyond anyone's control, and I had to change almost every aspect of how I teach visual arts. It was fortunate that I was already using technology in my classroom as a tool and the transition wasn't too difficult for my students. A successful teacher needs to be able to face challenges, change, and be able to be creative no matter what subject is taught. I believe I possess those qualities along with the other required

qualifications. These current times are going to forever change future education protocols for teaching

Have at least three years of teaching experience with two in the district:

I have been teaching for 13 years, and my experience with teaching has been primarily with high school students and adults. My first two years as a teacher was at Pomperaug High School. In that time, I started the first Art Club at Pomperaug High School, and we created and painted the first mural at that school. I have been teaching in Bristol now for 11 years, first at Bristol Eastern then I transferred to Bristol Central in the fall of 2016.

Demonstrate effective teaching practice as defined by the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching:

From the beginning of my teaching career I felt it was important to be involved with students and the community outside of the classroom. As a teacher at Bristol Central I had the opportunity to start the Art Club. We are currently working on murals within the school at Bristol Central, and we expect to pick up after we go back from our current distant learning. My students also help out with other community and school related activities to raise funds for other programs.

Recently the Art Club helped with South Side's paint night to get parents and community together for fun, and Bristol Central's paint night for the Drama Department fund raiser. Also, the time in which the Art Club meets after school provides other art students with a means to catch up on projects that they may need extra help with or extra classroom time because they were absent for class.

I have worked with Gina Gallo at Bristol Central to create and implement visual arts and interdisciplinary lessons with her Italian classes and my Sculpture 2 classes. Gina and I have also won grant money for our collaborations to continue. These collaborations have enriched the students learning in both art and world language.

I have attended CAEA conventions and stay current in the art field by frequenting art galleries and museums, both on my own and with student field trips. I also served as the art representative on the NEASC committee in the fall of 2008, this gave me an insight to the workings of a high school early in my career in teaching. During my time at Pomperaug H.S. I collaborated with the English teacher to create a new class that infused English Literature with Visual Arts Illustration.

My Master's Thesis was based on student centered goal setting and its relationship with intrinsic motivation. My students set goals for themselves during lessons so that they take ownership of their learning. In the process of teaching goal writing to my students I've also learned how to improve my own goals in both my professional life and artistic achievements.

Before and after our distant learning started I have been creating YouTube videos for my students so that they have a model, visual reference, and the benefit of controlling their learning. My goal is to have all my modeling/technical demonstrations recorded so that student who are absent can see the entire demonstration. Also, some students need additional viewing and reviewing of material covered. This allows them to control (by stopping or slowing the video) how they engage content.

Demonstrate ability to relate effectively to adult learners & participate in non-mandated professional activities:

I taught Drawing 1 for four semesters at Naugatuck Valley Community College as an adjunct professor. This gave me an opportunity to experience teaching to a diverse age group and demographic range of students. I've created and implemented professional development seminars in art at Pomperaug H. S. This experience served me well when I taught pottery to adult learners at Canton Clay Works after completing an internship there in 2016-2017. I have a love of drawing, painting, and pottery. Currently I have my own studio in which I get to create in all media that I love. I am always going to continue my own learning and personal growth in art, as I feel it's the only way to be a creative teacher.

Serve on school-based and district committees

I have served on the CCSS committee at Bristol Eastern during the summer of 2014 for the new implementation of state standards in our curriculum. I continue to be a part of my department's data and curriculum team within our district.