

Emily R. Bielejec

Syracuse, NY
emily.bielejec@gmail.com

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet are only a few colors of crayons. Imagine tearing the plastic off a brand new box of *Crayola* crayons. Each individual unit is freshly sharpened to a crisp point, and are all aligned in rows, ready to draw the next masterpiece to hang on the fridge.

Just like these crayons, our students, line up on the first day of school to enter into our buildings to create their next masterpiece. It is my vision that each of our students' receives a quality individualized education that includes opportunities for success and fun. We have the opportunity to provide authentic learning in our district for our students' futures. I have seen far too many students passed by, under-represented, or just not stood up for. It is time for all students to have the chance to become their own unique collection of experiences, dreams and spirit.

The crayons left at the end of the year, much like the students, are the ones, which became dull over time, snapped in half, or were just the wrong color. Students and crayons alike must have equity. We must fill our students' day with a fair opportunity to embrace their own education. It does not always appear evident that we select certain crayons to color with, or provide only opportunities for a select number throughout the creation; however, it does happen. It is our goal as an ever-changing system to implement and sustain programs that reach all of our students. The broken and underused crayons need a chance to make a masterpiece.