

**Melissa Brazeau**

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Clinton, MA  
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To whom it may concern,

In my first few years of teaching, I have had the privilege to work in some amazing schools. I began as a day to day substitute in Worcester. From that position, I learned adaptability to any situation because every room had different learning styles and goals. I began to establish myself as an art educator through a position as a long term art substitute in Fitchburg. That school had many struggling students which taught me the importance of motivation in education so that every student is reached. Most recently, I have been working in Dudley as an art educator. In this school, I have been developing an open-ended teaching philosophy with an emphasis on 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking skills.

My philosophy as an art educator is not only to teach artistic techniques, but to build 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking skills. One technique to build these skills is through the critique method called visual thinking strategies. Students in my classroom begin every unit by analyzing the work of master artists. When students learn about these artists they look beyond the techniques to discover the concepts the artists explored such as an environmental concern. Lessons connect to real artists and important concepts that will transfer into adult life. When students begin their project, the strategy is to use open-ended lesson planning. Students work within the parameters, guided by a rubric, which takes into consideration the master artist, concepts, and state standards. However, the products are unique with a priority on giving students a feeling of ownership, rather than a step driven craft.

To build student motivation and a positive classroom environment, many fun games are incorporated into the curriculum. Students play a color game called sparkle, a line version of Simon says, and a musical chairs inspired painting habits game. These games teach important information in a motivational manner. One example of a full lesson for motivational learning found inspiration in the book "Beautiful Oops". For this lesson, students take a piece of paper with a mistake on it and make it the focus of the piece. There is also a song based on the book, making it a silly lesson that has students giggling and very excited to manipulate materials. This leads to a greater classroom discussion about making the most out of our mistakes and having a positive attitude. The art classroom should always educate and motivate the whole child through the artistic experience.

I feel it is an art educator's job to bring art not only to the students, but the parents and the community at large. I have done this through displaying students' art in district art shows, school shows, and a youth art month show. I have also connected art to the community by communicating with parents of both struggling and gifted students. I have also worked with the PTO on square one projects for fundraising. My proudest achievement was bringing the Gallery of African Art to do a residency at Dudley Elementary School. I want to be not only a teacher, but a respected part of the community.

I dedicate myself to educating all of my students the art room with a holistic approach that motivates all students to grow. My professional focus is on being a lifelong learner, seeking constant improvement. Although I enjoyed my time teaching in Massachusetts, I feel excited to move to Pennsylvania and begin a new chapter. I look forward to speaking with you further. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Melissa Brazeau

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### PROFILE

Dedicated art educator with K-12 certification and a range of knowledge and experience in various K-4 settings

### SKILLS

- Basic Spanish
- Experience in urban and suburban populations
- Proficient in Microsoft Office, Elmo, Blogspot
- Multiple certifications spanning K-12

### ACHIEVEMENTS

*Dean's List:* 2010-2012

*Juried Competition:* Chosen for juried competition to paint a mural on a column 2012

*IT Gallery at Assumption:* As art club President, I was able to have a new gallery space opened in the IT center

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, DUDLEY ELEMENTARY <i>Art Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Teach visual art to grades 2-4</li></ul>	Dudley, MA December 2012 to Present
FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MCKAY ELEMENTARY <i>Long term sub Art Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Teach visual art to grades K-4</li></ul>	Fitchburg, MA December 2012 to Present
WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS <i>Substitute Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Teach elementary grades as a day to day substitute</li></ul>	Worcester, MA October to December 2012
MY GYM <i>Assistant teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Assistant teach gymnastics for ages 6 month to 9 years old</li></ul>	Framingham, MA September to November 2012
NANNY <i>Early childhood caretaker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Care for children from 18 months to 4 years old</li></ul>	Hopkinton and Holyoke, MA Summer 2008 and 2012
HOLY CROSS PARISH: SUMMER CAMP <i>Art Teacher</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Taught 2 week art class with students from K-9</li></ul>	Holyoke, MA July 2009
D'ALZON LIBRARY <i>Library Assistant</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Assist patrons with checking out library materials</li></ul>	Worcester, MA September 2008 to May 2012
MELISSA'S SUNSHINE STUDIOS <i>Artist/ Business Owner</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Create and sell art both online and as a vendor</li></ul>	Clinton, MA June 2009 to Present

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE Visual Art Bachelors with an Education Concentration	Worcester, MA Graduation 2012; GPA 3.54
BOSTON UNIVERSITY Art Education Masters	Boston, MA Graduation 2015; GPA 3.96

### CERTIFICATION

MA Teachers Art Certification K-12	May 2012
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### EXTRACURRICULAR

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, ART CLUB <i>Vice President/ President</i>	Spring 2009 to Spring 2011
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