

LAURA JOHN

Art Teacher

301-706-6470



laurajohn7@gmail.com



Rockville, MD



SUMMARY

Graphic Design, Yearbook, and Ceramics Teacher with over 12 years of experience, adept at blending traditional art techniques with modern digital tools to foster creativity and innovation in students. Skilled in digital photography, graphic design, ceramics, and photojournalism/yearbook with a proven track record of tripling program enrollment and managing a \$50k budget. Committed to nurturing a diverse and inclusive learning environment, preparing students for future success in a dynamic artistic landscape.

EDUCATION

George Washington University

Corcoran School of Art + Design
Masters of Art in Teaching, Art Education

Hollins University

Bachelor of Arts, Theater

SKILLS

- Graphic Design
- Digital Photography
- Ceramics – Brent Wheels and Skutt Kilns
- Mid-fire glazing/firing (ceramics)
- Yearbook Journalism
- Adobe Certified
- 3D Printing – Crealify
- Laser Engraving– Glowforge
- Digital Cutting – Cricut
- Classroom Management
- Budget Management
- Veracross
- Blackbaud
- Canvas
- eDesign Yearbook Design Software

CERTIFICATIONS

- Maryland Advanced Professional Teaching License
- Adobe Certified – 2025
- Google UX Design Certificate – 2025
- Scrum Certified – 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graphic Design/Photography/Ceramics Teacher –

Landon School | 2013 – Present

Teaching Experience:

- Taught ceramics in a multi-level classroom, including hand building, wheel throwing, surface decoration techniques, firing, and glazing.
- Taught graphic design and digital photography using manual DSLR cameras and the Adobe Creative Suite.
- Worked with students on AP art portfolios.
- Taught a diverse student body, fostering an inclusive environment that respected and celebrated racial diversity and diverse sexual orientation.
- Taught evening adult ceramics and digital photography classes for the community.
- Designed and ran summer photography camps for 13 to 18-year-olds from 2014 to 2019, teaching digital photography and creative techniques while traveling to a different DMV location each day.

Studio and Program Management:

- Managed high school ceramics studio, including kilns and firing schedule for the department of 8 teachers in multiple buildings.
- Ordered supplies and managed a \$10k budget that included graphic design, photography, and ceramics programs.
- Expanded the ceramics program, tripling enrollment over 5 years.
- Integrated 3D printing, screen printing, laser engraving and digital design into ceramics projects.
- Built the ceramics and digital media art curriculums for all classes and all levels, ensuring comprehensive and engaging content.

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Creative Projects and Community Engagement:

- Organized student work for community art shows, raising money for student financial aid and professional development.
- Emphasized creative thinking in art, encouraging students to explore innovative, cutting-edge techniques and develop their unique artistic voices.
- Centered teaching on respect, empathy, teamwork, and perseverance, creating a supportive and collaborative classroom environment where students felt safe and supported when expressing their ideas, accomplishments, and failures.

Student Advising:

- Served as a student advisor, assisting with social/emotional development, communication, problem-solving, and course registration.
- Focused on the individual, providing each student with the best learning experience possible to foster growth, responsibility, and creativity.

Professional Development:

- Stayed up to date on the latest advances in ceramics, digital art, and graphic design.
- Attended annual professional workshops and National Art Education Association conferences.

Yearbook Advisor

Landon School | 2013 - Present

Project Management:

- Coordinated all yearbook activities from concept to final publication.
- Managed timelines, budgets, and resources to meet publication deadlines.
- Organized all official school portrait days and team photo days with outside vendors.

Leadership and Team Management:

- Led and mentored a team of 15-18 high school boys, developing their journalism, photography, and design skills.
- Fostered a collaborative environment, encouraging creativity and accountability.
- Produced a 320-page yearbook covering grades 3-12 and ensured timely and budget-conscious completion for 12 years.

Editorial Skills:

- Oversaw the creation of yearbook content, ensuring high standards of quality and accuracy.
- Edited and proofread student submissions for appropriateness, style, grammar, and consistency.

Design and Layout:

- Utilized software like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create visually appealing yearbook spreads.
- Ensured the yearbook's layout was cohesive and aligned with the year's theme.

Communication:

- Maintained clear and effective communication with students, parents, faculty, and external vendors.
- Organized and facilitated meetings, workshops, and feedback sessions.

Problem-Solving:

- Addressed and resolved any challenges that arose during the yearbook production process.
- Adapted to last-minute changes and unforeseen issues with flexibility and composure.
- Assisted students, parents, and faculty with trouble-shooting technical issues involving digital submission of yearbook content.

Budget Management:

- Managed the yearbook budget, negotiating with printers and vendors to stay within financial constraints.

Marketing and Sales:

- Promoted the yearbook and drove sales through effective marketing strategies.
- Coordinated yearbook distribution events and handled customer service inquiries.

Creativity and Innovation:

- Introduced new design trends and creative concepts to keep the yearbook fresh and engaging.
- Encouraged students to think outside the box and experiment with different storytelling techniques.