

Elementary Art Educator of the Year

Alison Schmidt

Cedar Crest Elementary, Greenville, MI



Alison Schmidt is an Elementary Art Teacher currently working in Greenville, Michigan. Her focus every day is making human connections especially through the Visual Arts. She has taught art for 26 years in Greenville, Kentwood, and Godfrey-Lee school districts (16 schools, and under 24 principals). She has taught every grade level from Transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Alison has also taught art to ASD, MoCI, and EI students. She has experience teaching in public schools, a Catholic school, and schools with a high population of English language learners, at-risk students, and diverse backgrounds.

Outside of the classroom, Alison has been an Odyssey of the Mind Coach, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp Faculty Member, a Scout leader, a camp counselor, a church activity leader, an instructor for summer art classes, and most recently offering art classes to her friends at her house.

Alison's passion is making an impact on all ages of people through art and she has found opportunities to make professional human connections through offerings by the Michigan Art Education Association.

Additionally, Alison was one of the founders of the MAEA student chapter at Western Michigan University in 1992. Her MAEA involvement includes being a workshop presenter, a Region 9 Liaison, and a 2022 Conference Co-Chair.

Alison is an artist, creating artwork mostly with clay or watercolor for personal use or gifts. When she is not teaching or creating, she is spending time with her husband, two grown children, two dogs or being active with friends, reading, or assembling puzzles. A quote, by Rita Pierson during a TED Talk in April of 2013, that resonates with her is, "Kids don't learn from people they don't like."

"She has a classroom that encourages creativity and risk taking. She values every child's effort and product, regardless of the outcome... Students always enjoy spending time in her classroom and engaging in art while there." - Kathy Whiting

