

Sharon Stratton

Sharon Stratton Biography:

The path from Artist to Art Teacher for Sharon Stratton was far from a typical one. She made the decision to be an Illustrator and attended Kendall College right out of high school, working a part time job to help pay for school. When the exhibit company she worked for offered her a promotion to work for them full time, she took it. She always knew that she would go back and finish college and she did, eventually. Marriage, two children and twenty-two years of exhibits later, she walked back into Kendall, ready to finish the Illustration Degree. It may have been motherhood that changed her, the need to make a difference, or it could have been the “Art Education” brochure that seemed to jump out of the rack, but that was the moment that she decided what she really wanted: an Art Teacher. This was also the beginning of her membership with MAEA.

Sharon Stratton has taught Art at Fennville High School for nine years. In addition to being the sole Art Teacher in the building, she has an after-school Art Club and sponsors a chapter of the National Arts Honor Society. Also, she has been a class sponsor for two classes and is thankful for the positive relationship building that this creates; nurturing these students from 9th – 12th grade. For all nine years of her teaching career, Sharon has volunteered with MAEA; first as Region 9 Liaison, then on the Executive Council as Recording Secretary. She has enjoyed these roles, and is thrilled to be able to give back to this organization due to the incredible support and professional development it provides. Last year, she had the opportunity to serve as a Conference Co-Chair in Grand Rapids and recognizes the sense of community created by our members coming together to share and better themselves as Art Educators.