

2026 MAEA Elementary Art Educator of the Year

Jennifer Bergsma



Jennifer Bergsma is a seasoned art educator with 25 years of experience. She has taught preschool through 8th grade on a cart, in a modular classroom, virtually from home and in a classroom that she was able to design. Over the years, she has invited guest artists to speak and work with her students. She has taken her students to experience art at ArtPrize, Grand Rapids Art Museum and at Meijer Gardens. Jennifer continually encourages her students to participate in contests and participate in collaborative community projects. It is her passion to teach her students that art is for all and is all around us. She strives to give her students as many opportunities in and outside of the classroom to be creative.