



Self-portrait 2019

# AJ Kepka

## Visual & Performing Arts Educator

Certificate number: 2517438



### Website

<https://www.ajkepka.com>



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### Education

#### M.S. Ed. – Art Education

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

#### M.F.A. – Acting

The New School, New York NY

#### B.F.A. – Dance Performance

Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL



### Skills

- Unique experiences in organization and coordination
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Outstanding writing skills

### Educational Philosophy

I believe the fine arts are vital tools of self-expression. An educational foundation in the fine arts encourages the development of critical social, emotional, and interpersonal skills. It is my responsibility, as a teacher, to act as a guide in the development of skills necessary not only for the appreciation of and participation in the arts, but also to help form well-rounded individuals who can express their ideas in meaningful ways.

### Teaching Experience

#### Waukegan CUSD 60

- High School Drama & Humanities Teacher
  - Plan & teach 9/10 Humanities lessons
  - Plan & teach Drama lessons for multiple levels
  - Direct drama production(s) for the high school
  - Co-sponsor the high school drama/Thespians club

#### Schaumburg School District 54

- Library Resource Teacher
  - Taught library expectations and procedures
  - Planned & taught lessons in STEAM - including critical thinking, engineering, and computer coding
  - Engaged students in SEL activities - team building, cooperation, self-regulation

#### Geneva CUSD 304

- Middle School Art Teacher
  - Planned & taught 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 2D Art

#### Illinois State University

- Student Teaching
  - York Community High School – Elmhurst, IL
  - Glenn Westlake Middle School – Lombard, IL
- Saturday Visual Arts Classes
  - Created and co-taught lesson plans for second and fourth grade art classes
- Heart of Illinois Conference
  - Created and taught “Body as Sculpture” photography workshop
- Emiliano Zapata Academy
  - Taught art-on-the-cart style art lessons in a bilingual elementary school
- Normal West High School
  - Developed and co-taught a mini unit for a Drawing and Painting I class

#### Illinois Art Station

- Graduate Teaching Assistant/Art Teacher
  - Taught Pre-K – middle school art lessons in under-served community locations
  - Created and taught Pre-K art lessons
  - Mentored middle and high school students on a city mural project in conjunction with Artolution
  - Organized outreach and awareness activities for community events

#### Village Theatre Guild, Glen Ellyn, IL

- Co-director K-5 summer theater camp 2013-2024