



Self-portrait 2019

AJ Kepka

Visual & Performing Arts Educator

Certificate number: 2517438



Website

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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

Schaumburg School District 54

- Library Resource Teacher
 - Teach library expectations and procedures
 - Plan and teach lessons in STEAM - including critical thinking, engineering, and computer coding
 - Engage students in SEL activities - team building, cooperation, self-regulation

Geneva Middle School North & South

- Art Teacher
 - 6th 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

- Taught Pre-K – middle school art lessons in underserved 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-directed K-5 summer theater camp 2013-2023

New Canaan Nature Center, New Canaan, CT

- Taught ecology and wildlife lessons
- Organized/implemented day or weeklong field trips
- Researched material for lesson development