

As a child I was okay with not being able to draw or paint as well as others. I always admired those who could and would watch them with a sense of awe. I always wanted to learn how to draw, I remember having a Tupperware stencil kit that I would bring to school so when we needed to draw something it would help me feel more confident to do so. When it came to Arts and Crafts, I thoroughly enjoyed the creative process of making something out of nothing. Dioramas were a welcomed challenge. I was able to be crafty and creative while showing my “artsy,” side. At home my mom encouraged the craftiness by having a craft box for me. When I was bored or during the summertime she would tell me to get the box out and create something. I remember making Thanksgiving centerpieces, bracelets, hair bows, and Christmas decorations for the tree. I also remember making a model plant cell out of a styrofoam ball and different candies hot glued to represent the different parts of the cell. I painted the cell and made little identifying flags to go with each part. I also took a sewing and cooking class in 7th grade, but I was more interested in the cooking part than the sewing.

In High School, I took a pottery class of which I thought I would be a natural. I could never get my hands to make a pot on the wheel. I did make different containers which I still have to date. I was in choir in church ever since I was little and my church would put on different Performing Arts talent shows, lip syncs, and summer camps of which I was able to use my talent for singing. In High School, I joined the school choir and we performed for local rest homes and hospitals. I didn’t perform for years till this past year, I tried out for our local community play, “Mary Poppins,” and got a part. It was very exciting to be in that production. Growing up sports always came more naturally to me while art required much effort. I was always the tallest girl in elementary and played Basketball, Volleyball, and Swimming in High School. I feel like I gave Art a fair shot but it was always work for me.

The general characteristics of Art experiences that were meaningful to me all seemed to have a common theme. I would have an open mind to try something once maybe twice, but once I felt like it was not my strength then I moved on to try and find something that was going to be my strength. I feel like with Performing Arts I have been successful. When it comes to Art such as painting or drawing I know my limits and I have come to terms with the fact that my talents have been placed elsewhere. I also feel like I try to expose my students to as many forms of Art as possible, so they can build their strengths in art even if I am not skilled. I always tell my students that I know I am not great at art but that I can always try. I also let them know that there is never a wrong way when it comes to Art. I also make sure to highlight the student artists in my room. I have 2 right now that are awesome at drawing and constructing. The female in my room is a perfectionist and says, "I have to have it perfect." She measures her art pieces with a ruler for precision. The male student in my room can look at a photo and duplicate it freehand. He always takes his time and is so proud of his work. We are doing a biography and he chose Leonardo Da Vinci because of his love for Art. I also use technology to my advantage. A great website is Art hub for kids on youtube. They have step by step instructions for the kids to be able to go at their own pace on their chromebooks. In Science, I have the students draw a before learning model and improve on the drawing after or make a completely new drawing after the learning. Finally, I have incorporated song of the week. Every week I choose a new song to learn the lyrics to, and music has seem to unite the class.

In conclusion, I think Art is the creative expression of how one's view's life. Art can express emotion. Art can invoke thought and discussion. Art can change minds and enhance culture. How I view Art has changed over the past few years. In 2016, I took a trip to New York with my best friend. We decided to see the famous Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was one of

the best places we visited while on the trip. The art we saw from different time periods and cultures was so amazing. We were able to see 3 floors of art from all over the world. Art that I had only seen in books. It made me want to go to more museums. So in 2017, we went to the Broad Museum in Los Angeles. Again, completely different styles of art but very eye opening. Art cannot be defined by one thing, it is all around us and encompasses mind, body, and soul. My past experiences have helped me to see that Art is an ever changing concept of which grows with life experience. I hope to give my students this love for Art. Even if it is the appreciation of someone else's artistic ability. I have learned to appreciate the beauty of art and I hope that the next generation can also do the same.

