

Janette Gallup
Arts in STEM Missed Live Session
May 23, 2018

The introduction of this live session focused on why, as teachers, we should incorporate the arts in our curriculum. The main reason I enrolled in this class is because my students use the skills discussed in Science class. I feel that people learn by doing. One reason I love teaching Science is because it lends itself so well to hands-on and creative learning practices. For the past two years I have really loved teaching hands-on learning. By incorporating the arts and the freedom to be creative, students feel more ownership for their learning.

In response to the question, do I classify myself as an artist? Yes, I do. According to Merriam-Webster.com, one definition of *artist* is “one who professes and practices an imaginative art or a person skilled in one of the fine arts.” When I was younger, I spent so much time painting and drawing. Now that I am a teacher, I use those skills to help me create activities, posters, among other things, as well as help my students harness those skills. I believe teaching is an art form. To organize about 30 students into one cohesive unit and monitor everyone’s learning, then intervene appropriately, is no easy task. Everyday I make sure I am offering positive experiences for my students. As mentioned in the class, if a teacher is negative regarding a students’ artistic ability, that moment could discourage the student from every enjoying or pursuing the arts ever again. In my own life, I had a professor tell me if I could not cut a straight line, I should not be a teacher. In my mind, I could not figure out what cutting a straight line had to do with student learning. I did not let her words defeat me, as an adult I have those skills. Children do not.

For the remainder of the live session, I truly appreciate all of the resources. Throughout this program, the amount and quality of resources has been fantastic. I appreciate the National

Core Arts Standards for the guidance in my classroom. I absolutely love Arts and the Cosmic Connection, and will be using that frequently.