

PERSPECTIVES



Alabama Art Education Association

A Publication of the Alabama Art Education Association - Winter 20/21



President's Message

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we have survived 2020. At least we are almost there. But you know what? I think we not only survived it, but we killed it! I know we never saw Covid-19 coming, but we did what all art educators do... we got creative. We leaned on each other. We hard-core focused on our goals. At least, that's how I saw it from where I was standing. And we learned to let go.

In the middle of all this, I have to tell you I took a step back from where I was and made a few changes in my life to focus on my mental health and my family. Sometimes we give so much of ourselves to the people we teach that we forget to take the time we need to refresh and refill. Oddly enough, the refreshing I needed came in the form of a long term elementary art sub job. After teaching middle and high school for the last many years, I had forgotten how much the babies LOVE their art teachers and ART.

And that's where it all starts, right? We hope that our elementary art teachers, while teaching the elements of art, are encouraging their students to LOVE art. Our middle school art teachers take that love for creating and help develop their skills and

What is the most important lesson 2020 has taught you as an art educator?

"[I learned] that our time with our students is both valuable and precious. We need to appreciate the traditional classroom experience that was taken away from us due to the pandemic. Cherish any time that you have with your students and don't take it for granted."

Larry Gibson, middle school educator

"As a teacher educator, 2020 proved to be a most challenging year for my pre-service teachers and me. These students had to learn classroom management and hands on teaching for Field experience requirements even though Field Experience had been cancelled. To try to give students some sort of experience based on observation, we watched videos of exemplary teachers - but as you all know from your own teacher preparation, being physically in the classroom is where we learn the most. Now

that the semester is over, it seems likely that the next Materials and Methods course will need to be completely overhauled to include a "how to teach online" component. I have taught College classes for College students online of course - but I have never taught children online so teaching others to do this will be a challenge. I am uncertain how a teacher preparation class will include this component - but I feel certain that it will be necessary for a long time to come. I hope that we are able to get back into the "ZOOM where it happens" so that pre-service teachers can learn from all that YOU have learned from teaching online in this challenging time. Virtual interactions have changed the way we teach, learn and work over all and that effects teacher preparation greatly."

Mary Beth Johns, post-secondary educator

"The greatest lesson has been humility - this pandemic and personal life changes have given me a glimpse in to the variety of learning methods and educational settings with which I previously had no experience. I can now see the value and the struggles of all facets of education - homeschool, public education, private education, virtual learning, administration, art-on-a-cart, multiple campuses, etc. It has opened my eyes to the fact that education is *truly* not a 'one size fits all' and that every student learns and flourishes in different settings and methods...and that is OKAY!"

Shelbye Reese, independent educator

build confidence in our artists. Our secondary teachers refine their skills and push their creativity to places our students didn't know they could go, preparing them for college and beyond. Throw in a visit to a fabulous museum trip or two or five, super supportive administration, and wow! We are helping our students find their voices. We are helping them discover who they are and how they can change the world. Okay, so maybe I didn't have that specific epiphany after teaching second and third graders for three months, but it helped me remember the kind of impact educators have. **Art educators are rock stars! YOU are a rockstar!**

We have 5 months to go in this pandemic/quarantine/virtual/hybrid/on-a-cart/in-the-art-room. Hopefully, the work we've done in the last nine months will give you the confidence to finish out this year. You've got this. And if you need ANYTHING- please don't hesitate to reach out to one of us. We are here for you! One more thing, this year and moving forward, we will open our board meetings to anyone who wants to join in. We want this to be your organization. With our new Policy and Procedures manual that Betsy Logan has created, we hope our organization is more transparent and inclusive. Our tentative dates for 2021 are January 30, April 24, and November 10. We'd love to see you there. Look for links on social media. And we can't wait to see you! Have a restful holiday break- you deserve every day.

Tricia Oliver, President 2020-2022 and Fall Conference Co-Chair



Federal Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest

Find out more about how to participate in the 2021 contest -

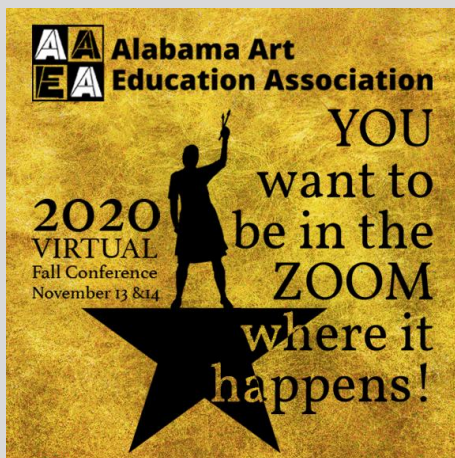
[Click Here!](#)



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Don't forget to check out the NAEA website for [An Open Letter to Superintendents, Principals, and School Board Members](#) written by NAEA President Thomas Knab. On the website you can also find resources on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion as well as other documents.

Were you in the Zoom where it happened?



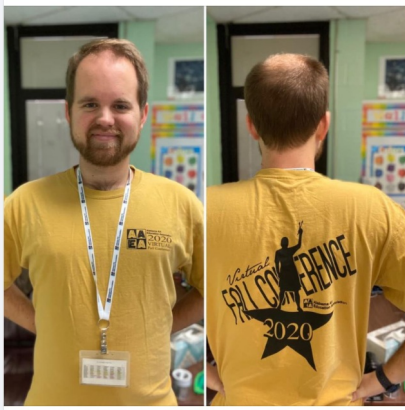
Fun & engaging projects were shared (who doesn't love black lights???)

When we had to make the agonizing choice to move our fall conference online, we were sad. We knew we'd miss those face-to-face conversations, hands-on-projects, and, well, just getting away. We knew everyone was tired of meeting virtually and sitting and listening. President Tricia Oliver, Past President Tammie Clark, and President-Elect Mary Jane Coker got straight to work, hoping to create a memorable conference. In the middle of the National Leadership Conference, which was also virtual, Tricia and Mary Jane began to zing ideas back and forth to each other, inspired by their love for Hamilton, the Broadway musical, and Tammie was totally on board. Using each of the leaders' strengths, they dug in to bring this show virtual conference to life.

Mary Jane is a highly organized person and ordered all the products needed to create the swag box. When they met in Birmingham at the Alabama Art Supplies backroom, 75 early bird swag boxes were able to be filled in lighting fast and in assembly-line fashion thanks to the many hands who showed up, including Sharon Christman and Kaci Norman. The owners were very generous with their space and super supportive! Mary Jane also reached out to all presenters and created a rockstar schedule, even teaching a few sessions herself. Tammie, who also presented, was busy with awards and delivered in person all of the beautifully hand-painted original artworks (awards) to winners across the state. Tricia used her creative strengths to design the conference themed artwork, video covers, stickers, masks, and t-shirts. The conference chairs hoped the details allowed the experience to stay as familiar as possible, well, except for the mask part.

In total, we had close to 100 people attend the annual fall conference. Aside from the hiccups with streaming and sorting people into rooms early on, it settled down, and everyone got to the work of creating!! There were a few benefits of having the conference online:

- Everyone could attend any session they wanted



Jack Vest rocking the swag :-)



Tony-awarding winning Broadway star James Monroe Iglehart joined the Virtual Fall conference and left us all with this empowering message.

[Watch it here and be encouraged for the new year!](#)



2020 Awards Ceremony

Did you miss the announcement of the 2020 Award Recipients? Check it out on Facebook - [CLICK HERE!](#)

since there were no limits to classroom space! Supply lists were supplied to attendees in advance, so even those who did not receive a swag (supply box) could work along with the presenter!

- No hotel costs! Ok, we all enjoy that get-away for professional development, and hopefully, we shall return to in-person PD soon!
- No worrying about subs! The team was purposeful in setting the hours of the conference so that attendees did not have to worry about getting a (non-existent) substitute.
- All sessions were available to attendees after the conference! How fantastic to finally be able to see the equally excellent session that conflicted with the session you attended live.
- Everyone in attendance not only got to be in the room with Cassie Stephens when she presented, but there was room for everyone to work! I promise you, your hosts definitely were jumping in to create during this session!

We hope you enjoyed the variety of sessions available this year, and we appreciate all of our presenters. A tremendous amount of work went into recording the presentations and finding topics that would relay virtually. While there was no keynote speaker, having the Cameo video of James Monroe Iglehart (Tony Award Winner Aladdin, Hamilton) giving an inspiring pep talk about teachers' importance was the perfect addition. Who knew his mom was an educator!?

We appreciate your attendance, support, and feedback. AAEA leaders have talked about the potential for sharing sessions virtually for years and, well, nothing like trial by fire! We just wanted to stay true to our mission of LAPS- Leadership, Advocacy, Professional Development, and Support. We hope you enjoyed all aspects of the 2020 Fall Conference.

We are looking forward to our fall 2021 conference and hope that everyone will attend in person in Mobile, Alabama. All plans previously made by our conference chairs, Amanda Youngblood and Julie Kogan, will move forward! Dates for the fall conference are November 12 & 13, and a new call for presenters will be sent out this summer. We hope to "see" you soon!

Tammie Clark, Mary Jane Coker, & Tricia Oliver - Conference Co-Chairs

AP Teacher Incentive Program RUSH January 8th Deadline

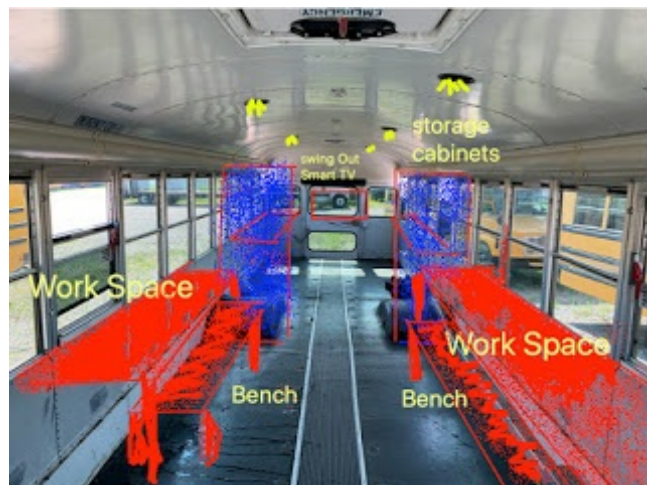
Andy Meadows, Arts Ed Specialist, ALSDE

Some of you may have heard me talking about this. A+ has added AP 2-D Art to the list of teachers that can apply for the Individual AP Teacher Training and Incentive Program. I fought to have AP 3-D, AP Studio Art Drawing, and AP Music Theory but they were not included in the list. I will continue to try and get them included. Please review the cut and paste from an email sent to all curriculum directors, principals and others central office personnel in the state.

Individual AP Teacher Training and Incentive Program (ITIP) Application

A+ College Ready, in partnership with the ALSDE, is releasing the application for its second cohort of AP teachers to participate in the new Individual AP Teacher Training and Incentive Program (ITIP). Questions can be submitted to tammy@aplusala.org.

- **Program Goal** - Increase access to and success in AP courses and includes teacher training, teacher support, equipment, materials, and supplies, student study sessions, AP mock exams, incentives for teachers and students, and AP exam fee subsidies
- **AP courses supported in ITIP Program**- AP English Language and Composition; AP English Literature and Composition; AP U. S. History; AP U. S. Government & Politics; AP Macroeconomics; AP World History; AP Psychology; AP Calculus AB; AP Calculus BC; AP Statistics; AP Computer Science Principles; AP Computer Science A; AP Biology; AP Chemistry; AP Environmental Science; AP Physics 1; **AP 2-D Art**; and AP Spanish Language and Culture
- **Application Eligibility** - ANY ALABAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL teacher who has not been an A+ College Ready Advanced Placement program teacher in the past. (Note: If a teacher was supported by A+ College Ready in one subject, but now teaches a different subject, s/he is eligible to apply.); and this includes: 1) Teachers from previous A+ College Ready schools who were not teaching their AP courses during the time of the grant program; and 2) Teachers from schools that have never been affiliated with A+ College Ready.
- **Application Due Date** - Friday, January 8. [DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION HERE!](#)



JefCoEd Art Bus

My name is Shelly Bailey and I am the Visual Art Supervisor for the Jefferson County Board of Education in Birmingham Alabama. I had a dream to write a grant to convert a school bus into a mobile art classroom. We have close to 36,000 kids in our school district. 56 schools to be exact. But I



have about 13 schools with no visual art teachers. This may not sound like a lot but when you add up the students that comes to over 6,000 kids who are not getting to experience the joy of visual art making and creativity. Well I won the grant! AND huge support from my superintendent for my vision. We begin the planning of our build out next week with a large team of people. We will take the next school year to do the build out using three of our high schools to do the actual work partnering with our CTE programs and our county director Bobby Jackson. We will have multiple programs involved and skills such as: construction, wiring, welding, HVAC, auto paint and body, and graphic design. Scores of teachers, professionals, and students will have their hands on this project. I'd like to take you on our journey every step of the way. No one in our state is doing something quite this large in efforts such as this to bring the arts to all students. [Follow along on our journey](#) **-READ THE BLOG HERE.**

AAEA Committee Updates

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