

What is your background and how long have you been teaching art for LPIE?

I am in my 4th year teaching LPIE Art and it is a privilege to share my love of art with youth in our schools. I currently work with 3rd graders at Lafayette Elementary School and I have also taught at Happy Valley Elementary and Springhill Elementary. I am a Pediatric Nurse by training and worked in that capacity for many years at Stanford's Children's Hospital and I have worked as an Instructional Aide at Lafayette Elementary School. My favorite classroom volunteering time was always with our inspiring LPIE Art Instructors. Having studied Studio Art in college, becoming an instructor was the perfect fit.

What is your favorite thing about teaching art?

I love formulating meaningful lessons for my students. Each one-hour art lesson consists of a student-friendly yet detailed art talk about an art concept or art movement, after which we move into a related project. LPIE projects are in depth and multi-step, and the students are always thrilled with their work in the end. I want my students see their personal connections to the art we are discussing.

For example, in my third grade classes I teach a Public Art lesson. We look at Lafayette works such as Brian Goggin's, "Speechless" (2008-2009) the bronze site-specific sculpture in the Lafayette Library lower courtyard. After returning from spring break vacations last year, students were thrilled to share the public artworks they noticed in their travels. When my artists want to share their art experiences with me, or when they do art independently outside of the classroom, I know I have done a solid day's work.

If you could take one painting with you on a desert island, which one would it be?

This is a difficult question, because I love the work of so many modern painters! But it does all come down to Henri Matisse for me. His use of color and masterful composition awe me, and his cut outs have always been a part of my life. In 2014 I took my daughter Sarah to New York because "Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs" exhibit had come to MoMA from Tate Modern, London. It was such an inspiring show that we went to the exhibit twice during that trip! My favorite work in that show was the gestural blue Polinesia, The Sky (1947).

What is something that would surprise your students' parents if they knew?

Art is not always easy! When a student stretches during our time together, they might be heard saying, "Wow, I cannot believe I was able to draw this very detailed sketch of my shoe!" For me, art is about taking the time to develop a keen sense of observation and focus, skills that translate to all disciplines in

school. My young artists not only amaze me week to week, but themselves as well.

What do you like to do when you're not teaching?

I love spending time with my two children, Will and Sarah and my husband Ralph. I enjoy taking them to art exhibits at SFMoMA and the De Young Museum in San Francisco. And, I love to paint with acrylics in my home, always working on the fundamentals of color in my work.

May art always be a part of your life! Thank you for your ongoing support of LPIE, without which LPIE Art would not be possible.