

Dear Hiring Committee,

My name is Karen Stephens, and I am a visual arts educator who is passionate about student creativity, visual storytelling, and authentic learning experiences. I value educational environments that encourage students to explore ideas, develop their voices, and use visual media as a meaningful form of communication.

In my teaching, I strive to create a studio-based classroom that balances structure with creativity. I emphasize process, reflection, and revision while building strong relationships with students so they feel supported, confident, and willing to take creative risks. I believe that meaningful learning happens when students feel ownership of their work and pride in what they create.

I also enjoy curriculum development and instructional design. Writing the photography curriculum and co-authoring the district's visual arts curriculum strengthened my commitment to thoughtful, standards-aligned instruction that is engaging and accessible to all learners. I value collaboration and enjoy working with colleagues and students to support a positive, creative school community.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about me. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to contribute my skills and passion for arts education.

Sincerely,

Karen Stephens