

Olivia Henson

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LICENSURE: Minnesota State Teaching – Art Education

Spring 2025

EDUCATION: Bachelor of the Arts

Spring 2025

College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

Major: Art. Minor: Secondary Education

Honors/Scholarships: Dean's List 2021-2025, Art Scholarship (Merit-Based) 2021-2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

High School Teacher Shadow

Spring 2022

White Bear Lake High School, White Bear Lake, MN

Field Experience, Grades 9-10.

- Worked with grades 9 and 10 and assisted in classroom management and facilitation of art activities, encouraging creative expression and critical thinking
- Organized and taught a one-day one-point perspective lesson to 9th graders.

Middle/High School Teacher Shadow

Fall 2022

St. Johns Prep, Collegeville, MN

Field Experience, Grades 9-12.

- Engaged in reflective teaching practices, using feedback and self-assessment to continuously improve lesson delivery and classroom engagement.

Elementary Field Experience

Fall 2022

Westwood Elementary, St. Cloud, MN

Field Experience, 1st, 3rd, and 5th.

- Designed and taught a one-day lesson on *The Importance of Everyday Life* inspired by Clementine Hunter, integrating storytelling and literature into art projects to encourage students to create visual interpretations of personal narratives.

High School Field Experience

Fall 2023

Tech High School, St. Cloud, MN

Field Experience, Grades 9-12

- Collaborated with and learned from a mentor teacher to refine instructional techniques, classroom management strategies, and methods for integrating literature into art lessons, enhancing student engagement and creative expression.

Middle School Field Experience and Student Teaching

Spring 2024

Kennedy Community School, St. Joseph, MN

Student Teacher, K-8: Approx. 180 students, including approx. 56 students with IEPs.

- Organized and taught two lessons: Fiber sculptures inspired by Judith Scott and sgraffito.
- Assessed student artwork using rubrics aligned with learning objectives, ensuring fair and consistent evaluation.

Middle School Art Teacher

Forest Lake Area Middle School, Forest Lake, MN

Fall 2025 - Present

7th and 8th Grade.

- Developed and executed a comprehensive, choice-based Visual Arts curriculum rooted in the National Core Arts Standards (Create, Present, Respond, Connect), integrating interdisciplinary literacy and math concepts to support school-wide academic goals.
- Cultivated a safe and regulated studio environment by implementing proactive de-escalation techniques and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), successfully managing diverse student needs and navigating complex behavioral challenges with a calm, person-first approach.

RELATED EXPERIENCE:

Substitute Paraprofessional, Stillwater, MN.

Spring 2021 - Fall 2023

- Substituted at four elementary schools, with Rutherford Elementary requesting me back as the preferred para due to strong student rapport.
- Stepped into various roles across different classrooms or grade levels, ensuring consistency and continuity in students' educational experiences.

Engagement Coordinator for The Institute for Women's Leadership

Fall 2023 - Spring 2025

- Collaborated with a colleague to develop the Hynes Scholar curriculum, contributing to program structure and educational content developed for a specific audience.

Intern with Art Educators of Minnesota (AEM)

Summer 2024 - Fall 2024

- Led a presentation at the AEM conference in Fall 2024. This provided free resources to up-and-coming art educators to aid them during their transition period.
- Collaborated with educators and organization leaders to develop resources and materials for workshops, conferences, and community outreach.

Lead Instructor with KidCreate Studios

May 2025 - August 2025

- Managed studio logistics and material distribution for diverse media, ensuring a highly organized environment that promoted student independence and responsible care of resources.
- Cultivated a safe, inclusive, and high-energy classroom culture by implementing proactive behavior management strategies that prioritized both physical safety and social-emotional engagement.
- Facilitated age-appropriate art and technique lessons for K-5 students, balancing direct instruction with open-ended creative exploration to build student confidence and self-efficacy.

TECHNOLOGY SKILLS:

Synergy | Canva | Clever | Gmail | Canvas | Google Meet | Teams | Microsoft Word | Flipgrid | Google Drive | Google Sites | Google Classroom | Zoom | Google Docs

ACTIVITIES:

President of Art Club | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Entrepreneur Scholar 20 Cohort | Engagement Coordinator for the Institute for Women's Leadership

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Conferences Attended: Art Educators of Minnesota Conference Fall 2023, National Art Educators of Minnesota Conference Spring 2024, Women Entrepreneurs of Minnesota Conference Spring 2024, Art Educators of Minnesota Conference Fall 2024, Art Educators of Minnesota Conference Fall 2025.

Trainings: Kelly Education / Teachers on Call Proficiency Badge – Paraeducators, Special Education Badge, Inclusive Classrooms Badge, Classroom Management Badge.