



Nick Napierala

Candidate for NYSATA Vice President

Education

Buffalo State College. MS in Art Education, 2011

Daemen College, BS in Art Education, 2009

Teaching and Related Experience

- High School Art Teacher, Iroquois Central School District, 2024-present, Elma, NY
Taught studio in art, studio in digital art and AP Art and Design
- Art Department Chair/Elementary Art Teacher, Iroquois CSD, 2017-2024, Elma and Wales, NY
- Elementary Art Teacher, Gowanda CSD, 2014-2017, Gowanda, NY
Taught kindergarten through fourth grade art.
- Teaching Artist, Community Arts Academy, 2017 Buffalo, NY
- Part Time Elementary Art Teacher, Amherst CSD 2010-2014, Amherst, NY
Taught Kindergarten art at Smallwood Drive Elementary.

NYSATA Activities/Honors

NYSATA Sagamore Summer Institute Participant and Teacher 2018-2024

- Attended weeklong institute for NY art teachers
- Completed art making and art education workshops
- Taught acrylic glazing workshop, 2020
- Co-led Procreate strand, 2023

NYSATA Conference Presenter and Tech Assistant 2015, 2017-2024

- Presented *Implementing The New State Standards And Incorporating Student Choice In My Program*, 2019
- Presented Acrylic Glazing Workshop virtually, 2020
- Work with Tech Team assisting presenters 2019-2024

NYSATA Region 1 Members Exhibit, Buffalo, 2018-2025 (Honorable mention, 2024)

NYSATA 10 x 10 Conference Exhibits, Albany, Buffalo and Binghamton, 2018-2024

NYSATA Region 1 Art Educator of the Year, 2020

NYSATA Region 1 Co-Chair since 2020-present

NYSATA Region 1 Vice Chair 2018-2019)

Other Professional and/or Leadership

Exhibiting artist

- The Comma Gallery Group Show, East Aurora, 2024
- East Aurora Fall Art Walk, Muse Jar Gallery, East Aurora, 2015-present
ELAB Creative Conversation 2012
Emergence, Buffalo, NY, 2012
- 464 Gallery Vision Art Awards, Buffalo, NY, 2012
- Honorable mention, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo, NY, 2012
- Created an interactive art installation titled *Secret Spaces* in the Useum gallery.

Vision Statement:

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of Vice President of the New York State Art Teachers Association. With 16 years of experience as an art educator, teaching both elementary and high school students, I have dedicated my career to fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression in young artists. Currently, I serve as the high school art teacher and Art Department Chair at Iroquois High School in Elma, NY.

My involvement with NYSATA has been a cornerstone of my professional journey. Since 2020, I have proudly served as the co-chair for Region 1, following a term as vice chair. Additionally, I contribute to the NYSATA conference tech team, supporting the delivery of professional development opportunities for our members. Through these roles, I have seen firsthand the power of our community in uplifting educators and students alike.

My vision for NYSATA is to continue creating safe, inclusive spaces where all students can explore their life experiences visually and develop the confidence to find their unique voices. I believe that as art educators, we must not only nurture the creative growth of our students but also prioritize our own artistic practice. Rediscovering the joy of making art fuels our passion for teaching and inspires the next generation of creators.

As a leader, I am empathetic, passionate, and dedicated to amplifying the strengths of others. I strive to create environments where everyone feels seen, heard, and supported. If elected, I will be a sounding board for our membership, advocating for the needs of our community and fostering opportunities for professional growth.

My decision to run for this position stems from a deep love for art education and a belief in its transformative impact. NYSATA has been instrumental in my own development as an educator and leader, and I am eager to give back to the organization that has given me so much. My passion for helping others become the best versions of themselves through creativity aligns with NYSATA's mission, and I am committed to serving with integrity, dedication, and heart. I am excited for the opportunity to support and advocate for the needs of our members, be a voice for all students, and continue learning and growing every day. Thank you for considering my candidacy. Together, we can continue to inspire and empower the next generation of artists and educators.