



State of Arizona  
Department of Education  
**School Excellence – Office of Arts Education**



September 9, 2018

Dear Arts Educators, Administrators, Educational Leadership & Community Partners

It is my great honor to introduce myself as the incoming Arts Education Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education. I am looking forward to joining forces to support the various ways you infuse creativity into the lives of Arizona's students. It is my goal to build upon the previous work of the Arts Education Office to ensure that ALL students in our state have access to quality arts learning experiences which are an integral part of a well-rounded education as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. It is my extraordinary privilege to humbly serve you and our students in this role.

As partners in arts education in our state, I would like you to know a little bit about my background. I made Arizona my home in 2013 after moving here to study my Master of Fine Arts in Theatre for Youth and a certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management at Arizona State University. I have spent the last five years as a teaching artist in the state working in schools and community organizations teaching theatre and integrating the arts into classroom curriculum with nonprofits including Childsplay, Rising Youth Theatre, and Phoenix Center for the Arts. Before moving to Arizona, I spent four years in Merida, Mexico using the arts and project-based learning in classrooms to facilitate language learning. I am originally from rural Minnesota and completed my Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with a minor in Spanish Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. I am excited to put my skills as an arts educator, performer, arts integration & project-based learning practitioner, and scholar at the service of Arizona students' aesthetic and intellectual growth.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Education Arts Education Office is to provide support to arts educators, classroom teachers, school and district administrators, and arts stakeholders – including arts and education organizations, community groups, and service organizations – so that every student has the opportunity to experience the power and beauty of the arts, and the joy, creativity, and intellectual stimulation that instruction in the arts provides. Our goals for the 2018-2019 school year include *developing a shared vision* of a trajectory that will make Arizona a national leader in arts education, *providing content expertise* in arts standards, integration, & evaluation, developing tools for arts educators to take up more *leadership and advocacy roles* in their communities, and creating ample opportunities for *innovative arts programs* for Arizona students. In these ways, students will flourish in creative learning environments in their classrooms, neighborhoods, and extra-curricular activities.

It is an exciting time to be joining the Arizona Department of Education. Last year brought historic energy to the future of education in our state. I see nothing more important to our future than providing young people with opportunities to use their imaginations to fiercely envision new horizons. As your Arts Education Specialist, I stand by the work of arts educators who bring meaning and joy into students' learning experiences every day. It is my hope that you see me as a resource, a collaborator, and a passionate advocate for the vital arts education programming that EVERY Arizona student deserves.

To an imaginative year of learning,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haley Honeman".

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