



## Arizona Department of Education

### Educator & School Excellence Unit- Arts Education

Dear Arts Educators, Administrators, Educational Leadership, & Community Partners,

It is my great honor to introduce myself as the incoming Title IV-A Arts Education Specialist for the Arizona Department of Education. I look forward to joining forces to support all the various ways that you infuse creativity into the lives and learning of Arizona's students. My goal is to build upon the previous work of ADE Arts Education team to ensure that every student has access to quality arts education experiences, which are integral to a well-rounded education as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act. It is my extraordinary privilege to humbly serve you and all students in this role.

As partners in arts education in our state, I would like to share with you a little about my background. Arizona became my home in 2010 when I moved here to complete my Master of Fine Arts in Dance at Arizona State University. I have spent the last six years in the classroom teaching dance and theatre and serving as the Elective Department Chair at Fees College Preparatory Middle School in Tempe Elementary School District where I worked hard to grow the dance and theatre program from its infancy. I hold a secondary 6-12 certification (dance, drama, middle grades science) as well as a preK-12 endorsement in dance and structured English Immersion. I am a STEAM Certified Educator, Registered Somatic Dance Educator, and certified as a teacher of Yoga, mat Pilates, and Irish Dance.

Before moving to Arizona, I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance with a minor in Music from North Central College and spent nine years performing and working as a teaching artist, director, and choreographer in Chicago, IL. I am passionate about dance pedagogy, arts education advocacy, and supporting social emotional learning through the arts. I am excited to apply my skills as an arts educator, performer, STEAM educator, and scholar at the service of the Arizona students' artistic and academic growth.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Education Arts Education 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. It is an exciting time to be joining the Arizona Department of Education. COVID-19 brought unparalleled challenges to the not only arts education, but the entire Arizona community.

**Kathy Hoffman, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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As we navigate arts education moving forwards, I believe that arts education can provide unique and valuable opportunities to support student social emotional learning, academic growth, creativity, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. I see nothing more important than providing young people with opportunities to use their imaginations and fiercely envision new horizons. As your Arts Education Specialist, I stand by the work of arts educators who bring meaning and joy into student learning every day. It is my hope that you will see me as a resource, collaborator and a passionate advocate for the vital arts education programming that EVERY Arizona student deserves.

To another exciting year of learning,



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