Berrien Springs Partnership Lab Syllabus and Instructor Qualifications

**LABS (CLASSES) ARE PROVIDED AS AN EDUCATIONAL SOURCE FOR PBL (PROJECT BASED LEARNING)**

**COMMUNITY CLASS TITLE: Zentangle Inspired Meditative Drawing**

**GRADE OR AGE LEVELS: 1st-12th**

**FORMAT: IN-PERSON ONLINE FLEXIBLE**

**DAY AND TIME OF THE WEEK:**

**Week of Jan 24th-Week of April 18th (off during week of Nov 4th)**

**Wednesdays from 9-9:40am**

**Additional options can be arranged by request.**

**(Minimum of 3 students needed for any class)**

**TOTAL REQUIRED HRS: 16 ADD’L POSSIBLE HRS (OPTIONAL TIME):5**

**TOTAL SEMESTER HOURS POSSIBLE: 21**

**LOCATION: Zoom**

**INSTRUCTOR: Niki McNeil**

**CONTACT INFORMATION: phone: email: website:**

**269-876-6518** [**nikimcneil@comcast.net**](mailto:nikimcneil@comcast.net)[**www.eclecticallymeniki.com**](http://www.eclecticallymeniki.com)

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION AT SITE REQUIRED? YES NO

IF YES, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

For the time being I will not be able to utilize common spaces such as Martin’s or the Library in attempt to keep everyone safe and ensure the least risk possible.

I will also be holding classes within my home in Coloma. Please note I have friendly cats, if your student has severe allergies, it might be best to pick a different location for this semester, if your student has a fear of cats, I am happy to keep them separated please just let me know ahead of class time. When weather permits, we may meet outside.

Virtual and Flexible Courses offer the option of live classes at a set time each week or the ability for asynchronous learning where a pre-recorded lesson will be sent out each week for the student to work through and turn in prior to the next week. Live classes will use Zoom.

After signing up for any of my classes please email me at [nikimcneil@comast.net](mailto:nikimcneil@comast.net) and let me know which format you’d like to take (In-Person/Virtual-Online/or Flexile. Please pay attention to the syllabus as not all classes are available in all formats. Also include the location if you chose in person classes or the day/time if you chose virtual.

Complete supply lists will go out 2 weeks prior to classes starting to ensure that there is adequate enrollment to run the class.

INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS (may attach a separate page if necessary):

Art and Creativity are what get me through the day. The joy that creating provides is something that should be shared and explored by all!

I have been teaching in one aspect or another all my life, from helping in Sunday School classrooms as a teen to teaching my own classrooms at 18. I was a lead teacher for a Preschool prior to having my own family. Once I had children, I was organizing local families into craft clubs and field trips. It was only natural that we chose to homeschool. When I struggled to find a curriculum that would work well with my very hands on son and my visual daughter, I set out to create my own. This curriculum is still on the market 19 years later and being used in homeschools and classrooms across the world.

I believe all learning styles can be taught in the same space in most cases and you will find that 99% of my classes are project based for the reason. Putting the learning into the hands of the students helps retention and instills a love of learning. I teach for enjoyment and want my students to also enjoying the learning process, you will not find me teaching to a test or requesting memorization of facts. I will find fun and creative ways to get kids learning without them even realizing it most of them time. Some may call it arts and crafts, but I guarantee you your students will love it and they will learn and more importantly retain the information being taught.

I have always felt that art was important. I did not always know how to put it into words necessarily, but I realized early on that it always left me in a better mood than when I started. With our current “social distance” needs, my views on the need for a creative outlet have gone from thinking they are important to knowing they are ESSENTIAL. We need to create our own happiness and when at all possible share that joy with others.

While we are all struggling to process our thoughts and fears, our kids are also struggling to put into words what they are feeling. ART CAN HELP. It can become a way to slowly work through thoughts and feelings. Sometimes a feeling is easier expressed in color or shape than in words. And art does not always have to be in the form of a painting or drawing, but a visual representation of what they’re learning. Check out my class listings to see how many different ways arts and crafts can really be learning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (OVERVIEW):

**What is Zentangle?**

This class is inspired by the Zentangle way of drawing. We will learn 2-3 new patterns each week and work towards mixing them together in bigger creations. We will work with illustration pens, learning how the different nib sizes affect each pattern and when to use a thicker or thinner pen. Students will learn a better understanding of balance, symmetry, and weight in art.

This class is inspired by the Zentangle™ way of drawing. This meditative drawing helps calm the mind the way rest calms the body, slowing down your heartrate and everything, think of it as Art Yoga. We will learn 3 new patterns each week and work towards mixing them together into a bigger creation during our live virtual class each week. We will work with illustration pens, learning how the different nib sizes affect each pattern and when to use a thicker or thinner pen. Students will learn a better understanding of balance, symmetry, and weight in art.

Videos for each of the three weekly patterns will be sent out each Monday for students to complete throughout the week (think of them as a brain break). Then when we meet for our live class each week, we’ll work on adding the patterns they’ve practiced into a project. The first week in our live class we’ll be talking about the supplies and the art of Patterning, week 2’s live class will focus on the patterns students practiced in week 1, so students will always have a full week to complete their videos (plan on 15 -20 minutes per video)

SYLLABUS/OUTLINE: WEEKLY BREAKDOWN OF PROJECT-BASEDLEARNING LAB ACTIVITIES

*Describe activities that w ill reinforce the lesson. Include any w ork and time to be required outside of class:*

*Each week we will create a new drawing project using a variety of techniques and styles to reinforce the major elements of art. I will also challenge students to expand their creative thinking and use art as a way of expression.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND APPROXIMATE TARGET DATES:

Art is an immersion activity. You can spend years learning things like line, shape, texture, form, space, color, value, balance, symmetry. Each lesson we’ll reinforce one or more of these concepts creating more well-rounded artists.*Steps to check for student understanding, along w ith dates or # of w eeks into class:*

*Weeks 1-4: We’ll work through our lessons and I’ll assess the students final drawings for areas of need*

*Weeks 5-8: We’ll work on improving those areas with targeted lessons and projects.*

*Weeks 9-14: We will continue to strengthen each of these areas and do more difficult drawings as the semester goes on.*

STUDENT ASSESSMENT - what will be used to evaluate student progress and/or end of semester pass/fail status?

1. Student agrees to attend at least 80% of class sessions/lessons offered. Attendance is kept online and tracked by Partnership staff. Failure to meet 80% or be on track to meet 80% may result in program discontinuation.
2. The Partnership Student Assessment or Performance Form is filled out by the

teacher and turned in to Partnership staff. The link to this form is found on the web page for this class. Failing marks for lack of participation, behavior issues, practice time, etc. may result in program discontinuation.

**Class-specific assessment:** discuss and include the form or a link to the form that you use.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: (online, books, video, etc.):

-         Any type of quality art paper or sketchbook, cardstock (one labeled multi-media)  
-         Pencil and Eraser  
-         Ruler  
-        Coloring Medium of choice: Colorful Felt tip or ball point pens, extra fine point Markers, Gel Pens, colored pencils or water paints (I will be using all depending on the project)  
-         Black Fine Point Illustration Pens (5 pack is ideal)

- 40-50 Graph Paper Index Cards or a graph/dotted sketchbook to practice their designs on

CLASS POLICIES: ATTENDANCE, BEHAVIOR, WEATHER, ETC.

**Attendance: Please let me know if your learner will not be in class whenever possible. I try to wait for all students to begin teaching and not knowing causes delay for no reason. If I know in advance, I am happy to prepare a virtual make up lesson for the student.**

**Weather: I follow the local school districts weather based decisions when possible. If either the district I live in (Coloma) or the district the class is held in (South Haven/Lakeshore etc) cancels for the day we will not have class in person. If we have more then 1 weather related cancelation a semester the rest will be moved to virtual to avoid the need for make-up hours.**

**Other: I expect students to be kind and respectful keeping our class a safe space for all students to explore their creativity.**