



Teacher Feature

Megan Hamm doesn't consider herself the most talented artist, but that hasn't stopped her from trying out many types of art and becoming Meadowbrook's art teacher for the last five years. "It's about having passion and interest," she said, adding, "it's a learnable thing."

Mrs. Hamm grew up in Okemos, Michigan near Michigan State University. Her mom was a passionate crafter and did a lot of sewing including making dresses for her daughter, but Mrs. Hamm wasn't interested in her mom's hobby. She was more focused on playing outside, swimming in the family pool and participating in sports like soccer, baseball, basketball, volleyball and even skiing on her high school team.

Her enthusiasm for art really developed in college when she attended Taylor University in Upland, Indiana. Mrs. Hamm started as an elementary education major but switched to art education during her freshman year. The following year, she spent a semester in Italy living in a convent with nuns, studying Italian Renaissance and Italian, and traveling. An experience on day one taught her a valuable life lesson that plays out in her art classes now. She was carving a stone angel when the material fractured and one of the wings popped off. She remembers she ended the night in tears, but she says that moment taught her how to go with the flow. Now, she tells her students to be patient with themselves and understand that even if things don't come out perfect, they can learn from it.

Over the years, Mrs. Hamm has experimented with a variety of art forms including oil painting, water colors, letter press printing, screen printing, sewing, weaving, and embroidery. She's taken many classes around the city and is looking forward to a clay class this summer. Her summer plans also include a trip with her husband and nearly 2-year-old daughter to Colorado along with camping at Mount Rushmore. Mrs. Hamm developed a love for camping as a Girl Scout, and she and her husband registered for a tent when they were getting married. The family lives in Rogers Park, and while they enjoy city life, they also take advantage of the outdoors as much as possible including taking their kayaks out on local water ways.

Before packing for the mountains, Mrs. Hamm will put the finishing touches on Meadowbrook's Art Show which is coming up next Wednesday. Her room is filled with giant sheets of butcher block paper with the art work each student is most proud to display, materials for activity stations, exquisite corpses made from recycled boxes, and a rainbow weaving she's hoping to finish just in time.

Fun Facts about Mrs. Hamm

- Extremely afraid of snakes.
- Lived with her aunt in Chicago three times including the year after high school when she worked at Banana Republic in Lincoln Park.
- Considers getting a master's degree in art history & could see working in a museum someday.

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