Tara Connelly



Currently I am the fine arts department chair and an art teacher at McDonough High School. Presently I service almost 200 children a year. I am my high schools only art teacher so most days I am tasked with many preps, sometimes even in the same block. It makes for a very fast pace exciting environment.

I hold two undergraduate degrees one in art education and one in studio art with a concentration in ceramics. My master’s degree is in curriculum and instruction.

I help with a lot of county wide art initiatives. I have helped to write learning targets, curriculum, and set goals for the county as a whole. I have hosted in building staff development and also county staff development.

My driver is spreading the word of how important the fine arts are and giving my students every opportunity possible.

My goal is that all of my students understand the impact their art can have on the community. We have published in collage one of our school’s community service projects. Students made dog dishes and sold them to support Hero Dog Rescue. Our students also have helped make bowls for the past 2 years and support the empty bowl project. This project has raised over $15,000 dollars in two years to help students in need.

McDonough High school art club and NAHS students work hard to use their art to help the community.

Currently I am the Atlanta Airport Youth Art Gallery Co-Chair. Last year we set up a conference table to help anyone who may have had questions about how to get involved in the gallery space. Part of my tasks include promoting, organizing and collecting artwork from art teachers. We also set up rotations for the art shows. We currently have 3 rotations a year with 112 frames that are filled every rotation. This past year we did a themed exhibit for the Super bowl.

The reason I would like to represent secondary educators is because I understand the joys and the struggles we all encounter. I believe the arts are important to every education and I would like to advocate for you and our students.