

Secondary Art Educator of the Year: Amy Moore



Amy Moore is in her 17th year of teaching with experience at all grade levels Kindergarten through 12th grade. After fourteen years building a ceramics program at Lane Tech, Amy embarked on a new challenge this fall at Senn Magnet School in Chicago as an art and digital imaging teacher. Her innovative lesson design and instructional practices have been expressed in many ways. She integrates with other subject areas like Chemistry, holding a series of firing experiments including a trip to a Michigan farm to build a fire and earth kiln, a dawn-to-midnight raku firing at school, a soda firing at Lill Street Art Center, and an overnight camping trip to run a wood-fire kiln in rural Illinois.

Her students build sculptures that reach far beyond the classroom by creating gigantic snow and ice sculptures displayed for tens of thousands of Navy Pier visitors. She also introduces visiting artists to her students such as renowned sculptors with ties to Africa, Asia, and South America. Amy's students have also used their sculptures to make a difference, raising thoughts for hunger and disaster relief between "Empty Bowls", "Cranes for Japan", and "Beads for Ghana". Just three years ago, her students helped her organize the Clay and Arts Festival. This festival involves thousands of participants from the school and community of Chicago engaging in clay competitions, hands-on art activities, exhibitions of student work, and an auction of students and professional artwork.

Amy's students have won college scholarships at the local, state, and national level. They have been featured on the AP Studio Art poster, and in traveling exhibits in other cities. It is no surprise Amy has been honored with several prestigious awards including the National and Midwestern Regional Awards for Excellence & Innovation in the Arts, Outstanding Educator Award from Scholastic Art, and a fellowship through the Fund for Teachers. However, Amy's qualities are best described by Robin Hamann, a former student: "Ms. Moore is the most dedicated, esteemed, and revered teacher I have ever had the opportunity of knowing. She is someone I look up to as a hero, innovator, and idol."