



MacKenzie Pollastrini **2021 Early Professional of the Year**

MacKenzie Pollastrini is an Elementary Art Educator in Lemont, Illinois where she teaches art and STEAM classes to students from Early Childhood through second grade. MacKenzie's passion for Art Education goes far beyond the walls of her classroom as she consistently advocates for the field through communication with stakeholders and practicing artists. Hosting events such as STEAM nights, art shows, and sponsoring an after-school Art Club for first and second graders are more ways she advocates for the arts. MacKenzie's main goal is to erase the perspective that art is merely a 'special' subject taught in school. She avidly works towards this goal by blurring the lines between art and other subjects, as well as teaching students about the relationship art has with their personal interests. Teaching visual culture and building student understanding that artistic choices shape communities is at the basis of her curriculum. With three years of experience behind her, MacKenzie Pollastrini looks forward to continuing to grow as an educator in the years to come.

[MacKenzie Pollastrini Photo](#)