



Illinois Art  
Education  
Association

## **Jennifer Baker**

### **2021 Middle Level Art Educator of the Year**

Jennifer Baker is a visual arts educator at Bloomington Junior High School in Bloomington, Illinois. She supports her art students with compassion and understanding; planning lessons that build skill, confidence, and ingenuity. Her students are encouraged to bring their own passions and identities into their exploration of art. It is vital to Ms. Baker that students feel supported and understood. She recognizes that each young person is trying to find their place in the world. Some may find it through art, but in art all of them have a chance to find reflections of themselves.

She supports her colleagues as an occasional graphic designer, supplier of random materials, maker of concession stand popcorn, and as the treasurer of the Bloomington Education Association. During her time in District 87, she has worked on technology and professional development committees and as a staff representative on several PTO boards.

Ms. Baker also spent several years as a board member at the Illinois Art Education Association as conference co-chair, advertising/vendor rep, publication editor, and on-site conference chair.

Ms. Baker is a graduate of Wausau East High School, in Wausau, Wisconsin. She then went on to graduate summa cum laude from Illinois State University with a degree in art education and ceramics after receiving her Associate in Art degree from Heartland Community College in 2006. She returned to ISU to obtain her Master's in Education, graduating in 2012. At each of these institutions there was a phenomenal educator that made her success possible both then and now. Jim Bouche at Wausau East, John Ernst and Joe McCauley at Heartland Community college, and Dr. Linda Willis-Fisher at ISU. Thanks to these passionate educators, she has a blueprint for how to be a good and compassionate human in a profession that touches so many lives.

**[Jennifer Baker Photo](#)**