

Surviving to Thriving

New teacher advice, lessons, starting an art club and
NAHS, and getting AP certified.

April Watson – Oxford High School

Recommended Books:

“The Art Teacher’s Book of Lists” – Helen D. Hume

“The First Days of School” – Harry K. Wong and Rosemary T. Wong

“A Retired Art Teacher Tells All” – Marlene Nall Johnt

“Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain” – Betty Edwards

“Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain Workbook” – Betty Edwards

Lesson ideas:

I often use these websites for lesson ideas.

<http://www.dickblick.com/lesson-plans/>

<http://www.incredibleart.org/>

https://www.enasco.com/page/Arts_Crafts/ac_lessondirectory_0512

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/student-activities>

<http://www.amaco.com/amaco-lesson-plans/>

There are many more good websites! Just Google the topic/subject of your project ideas and you can find examples.

Sketchbook ideas:

I get a lot of my sketchbook ideas from the “Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain Workbook” and this website.

<http://www.incredibleart.org/lessons/high/sketchbookHS.html>

Starting an art club and NAHS:

Check with your administration on requirements for new school clubs, groups, and honor societies. Once you know your schools rules for starting a new group you can recruit students to join. I only allow my current or former art students to join the art club. This makes it easier to relay information about meetings and activities. The art club fee at my school is \$20 and this pays for their art club t-shirt and the spring field trip.

I have my students participate in different activities throughout the year.

Painting faces and selling artwork at Oxford Fest

Painting the windows in the children section of the public library

Making a plastic cap mural to display in the school

Making valentine cards for local elderly homes

Painting faces at Relay for Life

Spring field trip

Go to the following site for information on starting a NAHS chapter at your school.

<http://www.arteducators.org/community/nahs>

AP Certification:

I received my AP Studio Art Certification from SCAD in Atlanta, GA. They also offer AP Art History. It is a 5-day session and you can choose to room in the SCAD dorms or commute. I highly recommend the SCAD advanced placement program. I learned so much in those 5 days and got to meet art teachers from all over the US.

<http://www.scad.edu/academics/educator-programs/advanced-placement-institute>

Please email me if you have any questions or ever want to collaborate on ideas for lessons 😊

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