



NATIONAL ART EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

BACK TO SCHOOL 2021–22

Community Check-In

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 7–8 PM ET

CONVERSATIONS

View panelist bios, conversation recordings, and more at www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall

We learned so much from the challenges and shifts of the last unique school year. How can we build on that to help create the best experience for our learners and ourselves now and in the potentially uncertain months ahead? Join with colleagues as they share strategies and approaches to help us start 2021–22 with a fresh perspective.



Wanda Knight

NAEA President-Elect; Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion; Associate Professor of Art Education, African American Studies, & Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Penn State University
Harrisburg, PA

TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

- Practice gratitude.
- Be your authentic self.
- Cultivate an environment of inclusion and shared discovery.

GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- I primarily rely on my equity-minded, racially, and socially just expert NAEA friends and colleagues for networking, inspiration, and support.
- Outside of the field, Brené Brown, author, professor, lecturer, and podcast host, is a top go-to resource; notably, I recommend two of her best-selling publications, *The Power of Vulnerability* and *The Gifts of Imperfection*.
- Another resource I find helpful is *Onward: Cultivating Emotional Resilience in Educators* by Elena Aguilar.

SELF-CARE SHARE

I practice healthy thinking and use internal reflection to maintain emotional and psychological well-being and resilience. I start my day with prayer and meditation, including visualization and deep breathing to center myself. Throughout the day, I stay in the present moment, which helps me maintain perspective. At the end of each day, I journal expressions of gratitude, recognizing that there is much for which I am grateful despite challenging times and unusual circumstances.



Don Masse

VAPA Visual Arts Resource Teacher
San Diego Unified School District
La Mesa, CA

TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

- Listen: Give room for students to tell their stories through visual arts experiments (reconnect).
- Be bendy: Stay flexible and meet people (students, community, colleagues) where they are. Be flexible with student approaches and reimagine how you can best serve your students during this time.
- Keep promoting the importance of art education programming to bring greater awareness to your administrative community. Consistently celebrate your kids/community so the arts stay present and visible.

GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Twitter Professional Learning Networks (PLNs) for fluid, almost real-time collaboration and sharing of ideas/practices.
- [California Art Education Association](#) (CAEA) weekly newsletter with links for professional development/opportunities.

SELF-CARE SHARE

Make time to make! Schedule time and put it in your calendar to hold yourself accountable. Make a commitment to disconnect—turn your ringer off and don't check your emails on the weekends. Get outside, move, and breathe deep.



Evan Thomas

Chair, NAEA Independent School Art Education (ISAE) Interest Group; Secondary Division Representative, NAEA ED&I Cultural Competency Program Pilot Cohort; Fine Arts Educator
Blair Academy
Blairstown, NJ



Laura Grundler

Co-Host, K12ArtChat
Visual Arts Coordinator
Plano Independent School District
Plano, TX

TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

- Lean in to opportunities to embrace meaningful change—including new approaches to teaching and learning, and the possibilities of technology.
- Recognize the potential of art curriculum and pedagogy as an entry point for culture and connection. I see this as a real area for art educators to shine as we think about equity, identity, SEL, and self-reflection.
- Emphasize relationships. For our students (and ourselves), being cared for, connected, and supported is more important now than ever.

GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

Collaborations with a range of professional learning communities!

- First and foremost, NAEA's Independent School Art Educators Interest Group (ISAE) has been a tremendous affinity space and source of learning.
- My state association, Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ), and online communities such as Online Art Teachers K-12 (OATK12).
- I also really admire the work of the NAEA Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (ED&I) Commission.

SELF-CARE SHARE

My self-care regime includes creative expressions such as drawing, painting, and listening to music. Also carving out time for exercise and movement, and nightly dance parties with my daughter!

TIPS FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

- Being an art educator has always had its challenges. However, right now it has unprecedented and unexpected difficulties. Ask yourself, "Why do I teach?" Then reflect on the answer and put that answer in front of you every time you step into your classroom.
- Teachers are planners. Have your plan but then take each day, hour, or minute at a time and flex the plan according to your students' needs. So many of our nation's students have not been in a classroom since March 2020, and they have experienced trauma. Remember this and adjust so that you can support them as whole students.
- Advocate for your program; the arts truly connect the dots for so many students. Help all children shine by sharing their work in your school, your community, or on social media, but take it one step further and teach the community how your curriculum is essential by sharing learning targets, critical questions, and standards.

GO-TO SUPPORT RESOURCES

- My go-to resources are my teammates in the fine arts department, our district art leadership team, our local art education colleagues, and my NAEA School for Art Leaders (SAL) pals.
- Our professional learning network is another fantastic resource. I have a community of art educators via Twitter and Instagram to whom I reach out to help me solve problems.
- There are also many wonderful resources on NAEA; most recently, the ESSER webinar was a tremendous support.

SELF-CARE SHARE

My self-care consists of visual journaling (a daily practice), swimming and playing with my family, and working on mixed-media pieces—but most importantly, disconnecting when I can. Disconnecting consists of my daughters and I bingeing *Gilmore Girls* so we can pretend we live in Stars Hollow, and family nights like movie and pizza night every Friday—no phones allowed.

Find out more about NAEA Town Hall Conversations at www.arteducators.org/community/town-hall

Online Professional Learning for Art Educators and FREE for NAEA Members! Convenient, relevant webinars to support your learning needs.



Professional Learning

WEBINARS

virtual.arteducators.org

Art educators worldwide are asking important questions and sharing ideas on Collaborate, NAEA's 24/7 online community!

COLLABORATE

inspire and be inspired

collaborate.arteducators.org

Not an NAEA Member? Join your vibrant professional community for support, resources, opportunities, and inspiration!



www.arteducators.org

The NAEA Remote Learning Toolkit is a repository of resources to help visual arts educators navigate the changing education landscape.



www.arteducators.org