



Michal Austin – Potwin, KS

The teaching philosophy of Michal Austin is “To be a positive role model to my students and to provide a safe environment for students to create and discover themselves.” The quote by Nicholas Ferroni impacts what she does in her classroom: “Students who are loved at home, come to school to learn, and students who aren’t, come to school to be loved”. She believes her words and actions do matter to students. She believes “All students need someone to help them find confidence in an unrealized intelligence each one of them possesses. There is no greater feeling than witnessing the lighting of a fire within a child.”

Her educational background began at Butler County Community College by earning an Associate of Arts degree in 1990. From there her journey led to Wichita State University, where she received her Bachelor of Art Education degree in 1994. Since that time she has been a presenter and an attendee of various conferences from 2009 through 2018.

She began her work by Student teaching in Valley Center, Augusta, and West High school in Wichita. From 1994 to present, her 28-year career has been spent with the Flinthills USD #492 district teaching 3-12 Visual Art. Her Graphic Design Pathway assignment includes; Intro to Drawing, Fundamentals of Graphic Design, Photo Imaging, Computer Graphics, and Project Management. She has also had assignments including K-2 Visual Art, K-2 Library, 3-6 Technology, 9-12 Computer Apps, 9-12 Webpage Design, Technology Integration Specialist, and Webmaster.

During her career, she has earned several awards and honors. In 2020, she was recognized as a “Teacher of Influence” and earned the “Governor’s Scholars’ Award”. In 2019 she earned the “Kansas Technology Student Association Advisor of the Year”. In 2018, she was the Flinthills Kansas Teacher of the Year Nominee. In 2009, she was a Conference Presenter for T+L National Technology, TechEd National Technology, and NSTA National Conference Presenter. She has also presented in conferences for Kansas Art Education Association, and MACE. She has had lessons’ published in “Primary Art” and “Storybook Art” by MaryAnn Kohl.

Outside of the classroom she is just as busy. She has organized many clubs and activities. One of them is being the “Stomping Grounds” sponsor, a student run coffee shop. She serves as Senior Class Sponsor, SAFE advisor, NAHS advisor and TSA advisor. Her other work has included being Lead Negotiator, President of her local teachers association, New Teacher Mentor as well as PDC Committee and OVT, Committee. She was lead teacher in Redesign in 2021.

“Mrs. Austin is a highly motivated and talented educator.”, says Michael Hunter, Flinthills MS/HS Principal. “Her enthusiasm and passion for her students overall well-being is admired by all. She is constantly trying to improve her classroom environment to make a difference in her students’ lives. She has a unique gift of reaching students at all levels of learning. She

understands the importance of teaching students to be life-long learners.” For these reasons, we gladly welcome this outstanding educator to the Kansas Teachers’ Hall of Fame Class of 2022.