






# JENNIFER RUSSO

Art Educator

 716-573-4446

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 33 Coe Place  
Buffalo, NY 14209

## EDUCATION

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Masters of Science in Art  
**College of New Rochelle, NY**  
2002

Arts Education Cert. K-12  
**State University of New York  
College at Buffalo**  
1998

Bachelor of Fine Arts  
**State University of New York at Buffalo**  
Magna Cum Laude  
1995

## About Me

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I cultivate a welcoming environment where every student's creative potential is nurtured and celebrated. With many years of experience as an art educator, I bring a versatile background that spans elementary through college-level instruction across both classroom and community settings. I am deeply tech-savvy and stay current with evolving educational trends to ensure my lessons are as engaging as they are effective. Having excelled as both a dedicated substitute and a tenured teacher in the Clarkstown Central School District, I offer the adaptability and expertise needed to thrive in your school community.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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September 2025 - present

### Art Teacher, Part-time

Kenmore West Senior High School,  
33 Highland Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14223

I manage three creative worlds—8th Grade Art, Digital Photography, and Studio Art—blending traditional and digital media into high-energy, NYS-standard lessons via Canvas and Canva. I prioritize professional development to keep my techniques fresh and take pride in turning the district into a living gallery by showcasing our students' talent.

November 2023 - August 2025

### Art Teacher, Part-time

Bishop Timon St. Jude High School  
601 McKinley Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14220

I taught three sections of multi-grade Studio Art, covering everything from color theory and perspective to portraiture and still life. My students mastered diverse mediums while exploring art careers and refining their vocabulary through formal critiques. Beyond the classroom, I curated professional school-wide displays and led an Art Club focused on wheel-thrown pottery. A highlight of 2024 was collaborating with students to design and paint an 8-foot fiberglass buffalo; now permanently mounted on Bishop Timon's front lawn, it stands as a tribute to the bravery of Buffalo's Police and Fire Departments.

## SKILLS

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- Ceramics and Pottery
- Painting and Drawing
- Paint Night Fundraising
- Digital Photography
- Mural Painting
- Curriculum Development
- Student Teacher Mentor

April - June 2023

### Long Term Substitute

Edison Elementary School  
236 Grayton Rd  
Tonawanda, NY 14150

Assumed all art teacher responsibilities for a K-4 school in the Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda District. I completed existing curricula while designing and implementing two new units across all grade levels. Key achievements included curating the school-wide end-of-year art show and celebrating the graduating 4th-grade class with a vibrant display of large-scale oil pastel sunflower paintings. I also actively participated in all district art department meetings.

Feb - April 2023

### Long Term Substitute

Orchard Park Central School District  
2240 Southwestern Blvd  
Buffalo, NY 14224

As a term substitute at Eggert Elementary, I taught PK-5th grade art, guiding younger students through color and shape exploration while leading grades 3-5 in advanced watercolor and mixed-media projects. I then transitioned to the Middle School to lead 7th-grade classes, covering color theory, radial balance mandalas, monochromatic landscapes, optical illusions, and clay coil construction. Throughout both placements, I actively participated in art department meetings to ensure instructional alignment.

May 2022 - January 2023

### Long Term Substitute

Lindbergh Elementary School  
184 Irving Terrace  
Buffalo, NY 14223

In the six months I spent as the K-4 substitute art teacher, I managed all classroom responsibilities, guiding students through clay sculpture, printmaking, and multimedia drawing. My curriculum integrated diverse themes, including Cubism, symmetry, and art history. Beyond instruction, I managed grading and progress reports, curated multiple student exhibitions at the school and district levels, and co-painted scenery for the 4th grade musical 'A Year With Frog and Toad'. Spanning the 2022 and 2023 school years, I also actively collaborated in district art department meetings.

November 2006 - 2017

### Teaching Artist

Young Audiences of Western New York  
Lafayette Square, 2nd floor  
Buffalo, NY 14203

As an Artist-in-Residence at numerous schools and community organizations across Buffalo, NY, I collaborated with site leaders and teachers to design custom art experiences tailored to their students' needs. Partnering with institutions such as Buffalo's Central Library, the Erie County Youth Detention Center, and various Boys and Girls Clubs, I facilitated a wide range of projects including reduction and collograph printing, acrylic cityscapes, and large-scale floor cloths. My curriculum

## REFERENCES

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### **Denise Carr**

District Art Coordinator  
Kenmore East High School

**Phone:** (716) 874-8402 x22246

**Email:** dcarr@ktufsd.org

### **Shawn Siddal**

Principal  
Kenmore West High School

**Phone:** (716)-874-8401 x21507

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### **Dr. Denise Grandits**

Vice-Principal  
Kenmore West High School

**Phone:** (716)-874-8401 x21505

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### **Dr. James Newton**

Principal  
Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School

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### **Ann Maccagnano**

Principal  
Lindbergh Elementary School

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also emphasized personal and cultural expression through self-portraits, mandalas, and dharma doll sculptures, while integrating interdisciplinary connections like figure drawing through yoga, nature watercolors, and digital photography. I successfully managed residency logistics and instructional goals across multiple additional locations, including People Inc., Holland Elementary, and the Parkside Summer Art Program.

Aug. 2010 – Feb. 2011

### **Long Term Substitute**

Buffalo State College

Art Education Department

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14222

I observed and coached K–12 art student teachers through both individual mentorship and group seminars during their student teaching placements. I provided hands-on guidance in lesson development, instructional techniques, and classroom management while preparing them for professional presentation and successful integration into their specific school environments.

August 2003–June 2006

### **Tenured Art Teacher**

Clarkstown North High School

151 Congers Road,

New City, New York 10956

I taught two core courses: Studio Art and Drawing & Painting. In the foundation-level Studio Art, I reinforced students understanding of the elements of art and principles of design through diverse media—including clay, printmaking, and various paints—supported by historical context and rigorous assessments. For the advanced Drawing & Painting course, I coached students in sophisticated composition, life drawing, and technical skills. My curriculum emphasized personal voice through expressive portraiture and social commentary while ensuring all lessons met NYS Art Learning Standards. Collaboratively, I helped curate district exhibitions and mentored upperclassmen in the design and publication of our department magazine, SceneSeen.

Aug. 1999 – June 2003

### **Tenured Art Teacher**

Clarkstown Central School District

Felix Festa Middle School

30 Parrot Road

West Nyack, New York, 10994

I guided 6th-grade students in creating illustrated books to master the Elements of Design, while leading 7th-grade "Textural Explorations" where students simulated real-world forms through diverse sculpture, printmaking, and painting media. My leadership extended to community-focused projects, including facilitating a student-led "World Unity" mural following 9/11 and collaborating with the art department to redevelop the 7th-grade curriculum. I also actively supported the school's performing arts by painting scenery for theater productions and seasonal concerts.

