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Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in a position as a Middle School or High School Art teacher in the North Texas area. I have a Bachelors of Fine Arts degree in Painting, a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Fiber Art and a Texas Educator Certificate in Art EC-12 and ESL Supplemental EC-12.

I had my first experience teaching Art as a Drawing Core TA in graduate school at UNT. Helping students discover their own talents and artistic voice was deeply rewarding. I continued on as an Adjunct Professor in the Fibers department, teaching all levels from introductory to advanced courses. In 2015, I took off two years to stay home with my young children. At that time I realized, beyond my own passion, the Visual Arts teach problem solving and persistence, as well as foster mindfulness through nonjudgmental observation. Understanding the importance of these skills for adolescents informed my decision to pursue my alternative certification in secondary art education.

From 2017-19, I taught 7th thru 12th grade art at Pegasus School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a Title I charter school in downtown Dallas. My responsibilities included lesson planning with differentiated instruction, classroom management and learning assessment. In addition to my primary responsibilities I organized the bi-annual student art showcase, and took students to participate in the Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League art competition in Austin, Texas. During my time there, I elevated the showcase from an informal hallway display on desks, to a gallery style exhibition in the student center at El Centro College. At, TCSAAL, the students' high success rate included 9 medals in 2018, 7 in 2019, and consecutive 1st place medals in live on-site drawing, in both Middle and High school categories. Furthermore, in 2018-19 I took over as Yearbook Advisor.

My variety of experience as a parent, professional artist, adjunct professor and classroom teacher, provides me with a unique combination of skills and insights to draw upon. I would be an asset to a school seeking a positive, solution oriented person who brings enthusiasm in and outside of the classroom.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Laura Kante