

ONLINE ART TEACHERS

A newsletter for teaching with & without access to home technology

Joining the Journey: What is the Online Art Teacher K-12 Facebook Group?



By Dr. Trina Harlow

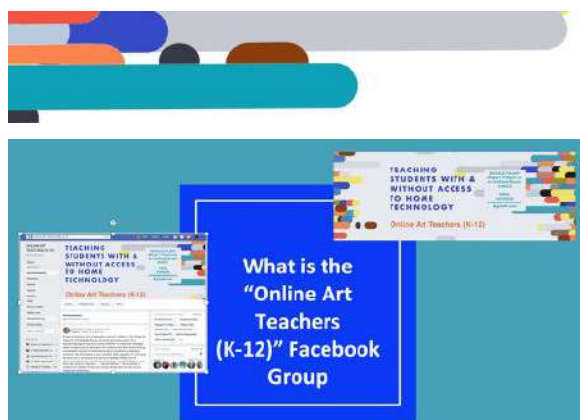
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Art Education Association Member
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Network
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#OATK12

“The world always seems brighter when you’ve just made something that wasn’t there before.”

- Neil Gaiman

About This Group



Online Art Teachers (K-12) Facebook Group was formed on March 11, 2020 as a service project BY art teachers FOR art teachers during COVID19 social distancing. With 7000+ members and over 62K posts, this world-wide collaboration of art educators is providing a much needed resource for teachers.

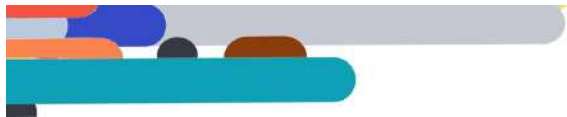
On the morning of March 11th, Dr. Harlow woke up with a calling to do something to help art teachers in Washington and northern California, and a few other geographic locations, who were reaching out on social media for help and to express their shock at how fast the switch to home-centered learning was happening for them. The Facebook Group and a Google Classroom, which has now become a Google Folder, were started in an effort

to assist teachers who were reaching out for help. Dr. Harlow was able to pull from her experiences teaching in some developing countries to jump into action and to begin mentoring teachers to give choices that were no tech, low tech, and hi tech – differentiating instruction as teachers typically do in brick and mortar classrooms. The group quickly grew and had over 1000 members by the second morning, and at the time of this newsletter, which is 28 days into the group’s existence, the group has 7,520 members and over 62,000 posts made by art teachers who are sharing resources and offering suggestions. Dr. Harlow knew there was a need for this group, yet could have never imagined the outpouring of art teachers from all 50 states and more than 25 countries reaching out to help mentor each other and provide and share resources that they selflessly made with group members. On day two, six national and state leaders in art education also joined the effort as administrators and are Sarah Cress-Ackermann (Illinois), Beth Dobberstein (Wisconsin), Kate Miller (Kansas), Bob Reeker (Nebraska), Randy Robart (Ohio), and Marie Taylor (Kansas). The group is also collaborating with the NAEA Public Policy & Arts Administration Special Interest Group as another role of the group is advocating for continued and seamless art instruction in schools and districts.

Online Art Teachers (K-12) is a service project for art teachers by art

teachers. No one is profiting from this group. Our initial purpose has been a platform to share resources with each other. Our next step, as we imagine it, will be to support each other as the journey becomes more difficult. And, finally, we look forward, with hope, to the day in which group members can share their experience and that of their students also on the Facebook Page. An art show called the Covy's sounds like a good way to document this experience.

Using the Facebook Page



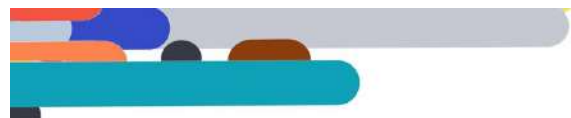
To use the Facebook page the most effectively:

- Become familiar with the **TOPICS** Tabs.
- Read **ABOUT**. Links you may need are there.
- Check the **ANNOUNCEMENT** section, as we pin important information there.
- Become familiar with the **FILES** tab where you can upload pdf documents of assignments, choice boards, etc. that you make to share with others. (Please also

upload them in the Google Folder.)

- Encourage teachers on Facebook posts.
- Click on the **ADVICE NEEDED** topic tab and give advice to teachers whose posts have been filed there.
- Share your good ideas.

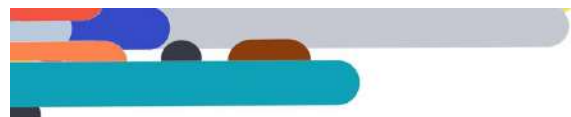
Additional Resources



Access the Google Folder with resources shared by teachers [HERE](#).

Also, see us on Twitter and Instagram (although we are just getting those sites started).

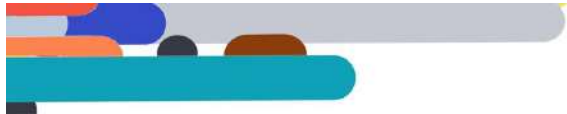
Art Journals



We are encouraging all art teachers to make art journals, documenting this experience in their professional and personal timelines, as well as what is going on in the country and world. We anticipate a museum exhibit (or many) to share these journals, as we are all experiencing a never-seen-before aspect of American History. We have reached out to some

museums about this potential exhibit, but a lot of history has to happen between now and when they would decide to do such an exhibit.

Copyright Information



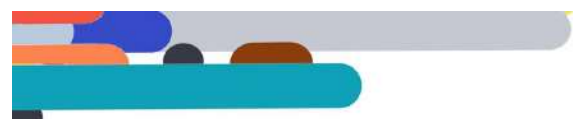
In the first video made for this Facebook Group, Dr. Harlow addressed copyright. This video was shared all over social media and this is what initially brought teachers to this group and to know this group existed. In that initial video, Dr. Harlow asked three things:

1. To know if you share something here that it is your choice to do so and others will be using it. If you want to publish something you have written, it is up to you if you share it here.
2. To not share resources that are copyrighted.
3. And to not publish something you see in this group or Google folder as if you had written it. She mentioned the honor system during this difficult time.

We want to add something to copyright notice: Please do not publish resources here that you have "purchased" through other organizations

or businesses or resources that were shared with you through a business as those resources may be copyrighted. OATK12 assumes no responsibility for what is posted here by members, nor can we control what members post. We are, however, watching for items that may be copyrighted and doing our best to delete them. Please feel free to let us know if something that is copyrighted is posted here by messaging us. We also hope that during this world crisis and global pandemic, with life growing increasingly hard here in the United States, that we can all link arms and support and help each other get through the fast move we have all had to make to home-based learning for our students. There are many serious problems in the world right now, and in our country that need our effort and attention. Now is not the time for teachers to profit from their fellow teachers - many of whom do not have funds to purchase resources right now. In the spirit of giving, we hope that you all continue to support each other in the magnificent way you have been here on this page, and after this. We also encourage those for-profit art education businesses to share a free resource here to help support this service project.

Concluding Remarks



Finally, OATK12 hopes that COVID19 exits as fast as it appeared and that you and your students, schools, families, and communities are all safe and healthy and that very soon we won't need this group for the purpose in which it was established. Stay safe. Stay well.

Please email the group [HERE](#) to ask questions, share information, etc.

Trina! Thanks for creating the Facebook page! It's such a great resource! Also, I just watched your videos on Story Boarding and Choice Boards! Two great ideas I am looking forward to using with my students. You are the best! Thanks again for everything that you are doing to help art teachers worldwide!



Stephanie Owen 🖐️
wow! thank you!

1h Like Reply 👍 1



Allison Leedy Shepard 🖐️
You are fantastic.

1h Like Reply 👍 1



Tee Kay 🖐️
**Thank you so so much!!!
You have literally saved me
during this crisis! ❤️❤️❤️**

3m Like Reply

#togetherweARTbetter

#OATK12