

Rebecca I. Kirk

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Objectives

- to create multi-sensory, richly-integrated learning experiences
- to foster a love and excitement for learning and mutual respect among learners
- to create learning environments which promote experiential learning, inquiry & discovery
- to address the needs and celebrate the gifts of both the individual learner and the specific learning community &
- to instill a genuine appreciation, personal connection and deep respect for Earth and all living beings

Education

Master in the Art of Teaching
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI
Concentrations in Environmental Sciences and Art
Graduated Cum Laude: 1997

Bachelor of Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
School of Natural Resources: 1980

Honors

Interpretive Teacher of the Year 1994
Howard Christensen Nature Center

Norbert Hruby Scholarship for Community Service 1993 – 1997
Aquinas College

Adult Girl Scout Honor Scout 1992
Michigan Trails Girl Scout Council

Professional Experience

2005 – Present

Educational Consultant
Head to Heart Learning, LLC

- ◆ Established own educational consulting business for work with individuals & small groups.
- ◆ As a Licensed Brain Gym consultant have worked with children and adults to address learning challenges including dyslexia and attention deficit disorder.
- ◆ Have provided individual tutoring in math and science for middle school and high school students.
- ◆ Have created and facilitated student-led classes in environmental studies resulting in major, year-long project outcomes for middle school level home school students.
- ◆ Have arranged and facilitated family environmental weekend studies for homeschool families.
1999 – 2004

Elementary Teacher
Grandville Public Schools: Fifth Grade

- Using a team-teaching approach, specialized in math & inquiry-based science education
- Developed integrated art/science/ math/social studies/language arts lessons
- Worked closely with specialist to meet a wide variety of needs of students with learning challenges
- Utilized a brain-integrating movement program to enhance learning for all students
- Promoted independent, highly motivated project-based learning through multimedia technology
- Instrumental in design & construction of floating observation deck on school pond. Utilized this for environmental investigations and personal journaling
- Coordinated the creation of butterfly garden by students and families. Utilized this for science and language arts instruction
- Promoted team-building and Great Lakes environmental awareness by designing a 2-day field trip to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore & Inland Seas Schoolship in Suttons Bay

1996-1999

Teacher: Specialist in Art and Science
Grandville Public Schools

- Developed and implemented hands-on science labs in accordance with state standards in 2nd through 6th grade
- Developed curriculum and taught art in elementary grades, including Special Education classrooms
- Taught applied technology classes at 4th grade level. This involved cooperative building projects such as working scale models of Michigan lighthouses.

1996

Teacher: Science Specialist
Grand Rapids Public Schools
District Science Department

- Created an integrated curriculum in Elementary science: **Astronomy** and **Plant Adaptations**
 - ~ Using *StarLab*, a 10' portable planetarium, provided 6th grade instruction & enrichment
 - ~ Using *Frederik Meijer Botanical Gardens*, provided 4th grade instruction & enrichment
- Developed pre- and post-trip materials and evaluation tools for each of these programs

1995

Art Teacher
Summerwood Academy, Grand Rapids, MI

- Created an art/science/social studies integrated, multicultural art curriculum, grades 5-8.
- Facilitated student creative expression in 2 and 3-dimensional media

1992-1995

Interpretive Teacher
Howard Christensen Nature Center

- Explored environmental science concepts with students, K-12, using experiential teaching approach in the outdoor "classroom".
- Worked with culturally diverse students with the full gamut of learning abilities and challenges
- Integrated art, drama, music & literature into outdoor science curriculum
- Developed and directed first summer day camp program
- Provided staff training in: Learning Styles; Integration of Art & Science; Philosophy of Montessori education

Additional Experience

- 1998 **Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp** Twin Lakes, MI
Instructor of Fiber Arts
 Developed and delivered instructional program to 7th – 9th grade students including paper-making, collage, soft sculpture, weaving and mixed-media: clay & yarn
- 1994 **Blandford Nature Center/ VanAndel Museum** Grand Rapids, MI
 1995 *Day Camp Teacher*
 Developed program & instructed children, ages 8 - 14, in the areas of

- History of Grand Rapids	- Global Ecosystems / Biomass
- Pioneer Heritage	- Natural History
- 1991 **Michigan Trails Girl Scout Council** Kent & Montcalm Counties, MI
 1992 *Nature Specialist*
 Developed and implemented outdoor education programs for girls ages 5 – 14

Professional Development **Highlights**

Writing I Institute: Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound. 2006 Bemidji, MN

Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center. Internship in Reggio documentation process. 2005
Grand Rapids, MI

St. Louis Reggio Collaborative Conference 2005 St. Louis, MO.

Union Institute & University, Doctoral Program 2004/05 Cincinnati, OH

Licensed Brain Gym Consultant/Instructor 2004

Educational Kinesiology Foundation, Venture, CA (more than 350 instructional hours)

CET Immersion Workshop in the Rainforest Ecology 2001 **Amazon Rainforest** Iquitos,
Peru

Multiple Intelligences Institute 2000 Kagan Institute: Grandville, MI

Project GLOBE (Global Learning & Observation to Benefit the Environment) 1999 Grand
Valley State

Michigan Science Teachers Association Conference 1997, 1999 Michigan Arts Education
Association Conference 1996

Stream Team Training/ DJ Angus Research Vessel/ Sea Grant 1993

Project Learning Tree/ Project Wild 1991 Michigan Alliance for Outdoor & Environmental
Education

Sharing Nature with Children with Joseph Cornell 1990

References

Andy & Ellen Biermacher
Homeschool clients
Alto, MI 49302
616-868-6440

Bill & Amy Neis
Homeschool clients
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
616-942-2715

Scott & Karen Gilmore
Tutoring clients
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-459-1179

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Cummings Elementary: Grandville Schools
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