Profile of a Learner

CHURCHILL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

This profile describes the expectations our community believes are required of successful learners in ChurchillCSD.

A Critical Thinker
- Asks questions
- Thinks flexibly
- Analyzes outcomes
- Designs and implements solutions to complex problems
- Uses relevant and reliable evidence to support claims

An Inspired Innovator
- Explores multiple possibilities
- Challenges the status quo
- Employs an entrepreneurial spirit
- Acts on creative ideas
- Seeks to continually improve processes and products
- Applies a deliberate design process to solve problems

A Collaborative Learner
- Seeks diverse team members
- Listens and acts with empathy
- Does his or her part
- Values individual contributions
- Gives and receives feedback
- Owns team outcomes

An Effective Communicator
- Speaks and writes clearly
- Listens actively
- Resolves conflict peacefully
- Adapts to the needs of an audience
- Engages with print and digital media
- Develops a responsible digital footprint

A Global Citizen
- Impacts the community responsibly
- Shows empathy and respect for all
- Embraces diversity of opinion
- Seeks cultural understanding
- Makes safe, legal, and ethical choices
- Demonstrates civic responsibility
- Participates in democratic processes

A Lifelong Learner
- Demonstrates mastery of academic skills
- Persists through difficulties
- Sees risks as opportunities to fail forward
- Plans for a future of self-improvement
- Initiates learning for professional and personal fulfillment
SPEED CHATTING WITH AN ARTIST: FOLLOW UP INTERVIEW

ARTIST: Caroline Kwas (painter)

TRANSCRIPT OF THE INTERVIEW

➢ CAROLINE: Hello! How are you?
➢ MARTINA: Good! How are you?
➢ C: Great, thank you!
➢ M: Do you want me to start asking you some questions?
➢ C: Yes, sure. Go ahead!
➢ M: How does your educational background help you be successful?
➢ C: It took me structure and discipline. It did not teach me vision, which is something I had to
learn on my own, but the environment of being in university with all this other students and
teachers was a wonderful experience. So, the community helped me as well as the professors who
did have a lot of training.
➢ M: What things didn’t you learn at school that would have helped you as an artist?
➢ C: The business of art. If you are an artist and you choose to be self-employed you have to know
the business. They also did not prepare me for the fact that you evolve as an artist and your vision
will change. When I graduated I had no idea of what my vision was and I spent a lot of years
trying to figure it out who I was as an artist.
➢ M: How did you start being an important artist? I mean, how did you start to get people to know
you?
➢ C: You get out there. You get out to your community art center, you reach out other artists, you
basically make yourself know. It is important to be opened and being available to people. I just
had a show at the library and I had my work out there for a month. You have to become visible.
You can’t hide in your studio as much as you want to.
➢ M: How do you show your work to the public? Do you know any art gallery?
➢ C: I will tell you what I did. Since I am new to Fallon I had to let people to know me so you go to
the community art center, the Churchill county arts, you just introduce yourself, you have your
businesses cards, you have a couple of small examples of your work, and you say: hi, my name is
Caroline, I’d like to be a part of your group, can you show me how to become involved or how to
become a member? If you are an artist in a town you want to be a member of an arts community.
You want to be associated with other creative people, with other artists. It is actually easier in a
small town like this than in a big city like New York City. I lived there for four years and it can
be very isolating, very clicky. You can also exhibit in shows. I find them thanks to the internet
which is wonderful as it makes it so much easier now to find out about exhibitions than it was
when I was in college. I am a regular subscriber and I find most of the places where I can show
my work through this media.
➢ M: I know you have already talked a little bit about this before, but how has your practice change
over time?
C: It has changed a lot and this hands back to what I was telling you of when I was in college. My style has changed. I have changed from photorealism, I do not if you have seen my website.

M: Yes, I have seen it.

C: So the rocks I painted, that is photorealistic. Now, I am doing what is called a contemporary realism. You just have to allow that process to happen. I think any good artist is going to evolve because as artists we are creative, always wanting to explore new things. When something becomes easy for me I get bored, so...

M: So you change.

C: Yes, and you have to be willing to accept that. It was one of the most difficult things that I had to do and I was always really good at calculus, physics, chemistry but art challenged me the most.

M: How do you price your work?

C: I look at what other artists, who are at the same level as me, charge. So I look to other professionals who do a similar style but you also have to take into account how long have you been doing it. Typically, I charge by the square inch and it gives me a rough idea. That picture I can adjust it depending on how complicated the painting is and it also depends if they are going to get several pieces. Generally, that price per square inch gives you a basic idea. You do not want to undercharge yourself but it has to be accessible to the market as well.

M: So the price does not have to be very expensive.

C: You do not want to make it like 50 cents an hour. You want to get yourself an income so not too cheap.

M: All right. Who are your biggest influences?

C: Currently, within the last year I have been looking at Ed Mell. Maynard Dixon is a big one for this new style. For a couple of years my major influences were Georgia O’Keeffe and Edward Hopper. My influences change as my style progresses.

M: How do you seek opportunities?

C: I am on the internet a lot, also on social media and I network just trying to always talk with people. I have a network of artists friends, of gallery owners... For a while I was into artist’s residences, in the national park, but you may develop your own network system. For me was the national parks because I am interested in environmental conservation. I am involved with the Arizona fine art expo which is coming up in a couple weeks but I network with about a hundred artists and other gallery owners.

M: What is the most difficult part of your job?

C: Some days are the concepts, the blank canvas. What I have been doing for the past two days and what I am doing right now is to generate ideas for new paintings because I am working on a new style and I am not entirely familiar with it.

M: Yes, the blank canvas is the most difficult thing for me too.

C: What I have been doing is that I have been working with sketches because I know I am going to need lots of canvases in a couple of short weeks and I have no ideas. The hardest thing sometimes is being very critical with yourself and forgetting to have fun. I have a mentor who just told me this morning: Caroline, you are forgetting to have fun with this, that is why we do this. So that is a very important thing to remember.

M: That is true. Can a person live only painting or should art be considered as a second job? Do you know what I mean?
C: Yes. I know people who do pursued it full time but I have always had a second job. I was an English teacher for about six years, I have worked in restaurants... I do not like to work in the same area so I have travelled a lot to pursued my art. So, for me, I have always had a second job because as an artist I was not able to make enough sales, so it depends on the person.

M: Okay and the last question: what advice would you give to a student like me who is interested in arts?

C: I would say don’t let anybody talk you down, believe in yourself, draw everyday, carry a sketch pack with you because when you go outside you train yourself to see things that can make you have ideas for your drawings. Also get involved with your art teacher, she is involved with Churchill County Arts, so get to meet the people, show them your work, show them that you are interested that you are curious because a lot of artists like myself are interested in seeing the next generation to come up. So become involved in the community, always keep drawing and believe in yourself. And also, you are going to have bad days where you are going to thing that everything you draw is awful but that happens and you have to work through it. To be an artist is one of the hardest things you can do but it is also one of the most rewarding.

M: Absolutely. I have no further questions, so thanks for your time.

C: You are welcome and if you have any questions feel free to call me at any time because I enjoy being able to talk to young people like you so keep me on your list of contacts.

M: Of course, thanks!

C: You are welcome. Have a good day!

M: Have a good day!

C: Bye!

M: Bye!

REFLECTION

This experience has been awesome. For a student who is going to study fine arts like me is really helpful. From this experience I have learned lots of things. Thanks to the follow up interview that I had with Caroline I have been able to know the steps an artist has to take to start to be known by more people and to be able to exhibit his/her art. When I go back to Spain I am going to go to the art community center in my village and I am going to talk to them as Caroline has told me to do and I am going to try to get my art in a small exhibition on our art center. I think it would be awesome to be able to have my art exposed in a place where people can go and see it. It has to be very pleasant for the artist to know that all his/her effort doing that drawing and all the message that that artist wanted to transmit is finally being received by the public.

I have also learned that if you want people to know you it is not enough to be a good painter. One of the most important things is to become visible. It can be done by starting to search online about different shows or exhibitions as well as it is fundamental to make new contacts like other artists or gallery owners who can help you to be recognised for your work. Also, Caroline told me that you do not have to undercharge yourself when pricing a drawing as well as you do not have to let people talk you down or
that when you have a bad day in which everything you draw is awful for you, you have to learn how to work through it and do not give up.

My goals for the future are the following: I am not considering studying art in the future. I am a hundred percent sure that I am going to study fine arts in college. I want to study it because I love art. I have been drawing since I was three years old. My teachers always told me that I was talented in some way because my drawings were different from those of the other kids. I have participated in many art contests for kids in my village and I have always won the first price. That has helped me to start thinking that I have certain skills to draw that I need to take advantage of. Besides, for me, drawing is a very important part of my life. It makes me feel incredibly good and it allows me to communicate a message on a different but awesome way.

After studying fine arts in college I do not know if it is going to be a full time job for me in the future because I also want to study astronomy as I love it. Right now I am not sure if I am going to be working on arts as a full or a part time job but what I know for sure is that I am never going to stop drawing.

On the same way, I would like to start letting people to know me as an artist, that is why I am going to talk to the community art center of my village and I am going to try to have a small exhibition with all my work.

To sum up, the experience of being able to talk to a professional artist like Caroline and to know her has been awesome and it has helped me a lot in order to understand better what the advantages and disadvantages of being an artist are.
School Board Presentation regarding the Lahontan Elementary School Garden Grant

December 12, 2018

Agenda

1. SB 167 - NDA (Nevada Department of Agriculture) School Garden Grant $5,000
2. Intention of our school garden
   a. We applied for a grant to begin a school garden at our school. Although, we come from a farming community, not all of our students actually know where their food comes from. Some of our students believe everything (milk, vegetables, fruits, eggs, etc) just comes from the store, not a farm and that it's sold in the store. We want our students to have the experience and opportunity to grow their own healthy foods which will help them to become healthier members of society. Our students parents and family members will have the opportunities to learn from their children on how to grow healthy goods at home. We will have involvement and collaboration throughout the planning and implementing process of our garden. Our students are going to be building up the school garden as it's all about our students taking care of the garden (prepping the ground, planting, watering, harvesting, etc). This year's Kindergarten students will plant seeds in the spring that they will be able to see and taste in the Fall as 1st graders. Our 1st graders will be able to start helping set up a garden and life-long learners of healthy eating.
      (See attached pictures of garden examples as long term goal)
3. We are still working out all of the logistics as we were awarded the grant in the middle of November. I have spoken with two teachers from CCHS and we are going to be working closely with their classes (Mr. Perkins, woodshop and Miss Johnston, FFA/Ag. Science) to help each other building rapport between the elementary littles and the high school students. Mr. Perkins' class may be able to build our raised flower beds and possibly a shed for storage. We are still working out all of our logistics. We have a meeting set up for next week to discuss this further. Also, we have been in contact with some local businesses as to possibly helping out with our garden, they have requested a memo from the school (in the process of writing).
4. We are looking at different locations for our garden. Currently, we are planning to begin with the atriums and will be able to expand as needed.
5. We are hoping to begin recycling and composting in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch and begin our garden growing a few herbs and vegetables.
6. We have some connections with other schools that currently have school gardens and are willing to help us out with anything we need.
Vernon School Garden 2015 - 2016 Final Report