

## PANELISTS FOR MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 PANEL, 1:30-3:00 PM

### Successful Arts Integration: A Real-Life Example



**ANDREA ARMS** is a graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civic Leadership in 2004. After working in the nonprofit world for some years, she completed the Transition to Teach Master's Program at Indiana University and began her teaching career in 2011. She has worked as a Title I interventionist and 1st grade teacher, and is currently a 4th grade teacher at Edison School of the Arts.



**AMY BERNS** is a dedicated professional serving the Indianapolis Public Schools and their students for 16 years. Berns received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Ball State University, and then completed her Transition to Teaching Certification for Kindergarten-6th Grade from Indiana Wesleyan University. Mrs. Berns spent seven years teaching 2nd grade and kindergarten, and one year in special education. During that time, she went back to school and earned her master's degree in special education. Berns became a building level literacy coach, expanding her reach by supporting teachers Kindergarten through 6th grade. After that time, Mrs. Berns joined the Curriculum and Instruction team at the district level where she supported elementary education. Mrs. Berns pursued her masters of arts degree in education from Ball State University. In 2016 Mrs. Berns became the Assistant Principal of Edison School of the Arts alongside Mr. Nathan Tuttle; in 2017, Edison School of the Arts became an innovation school in IPS. Last year, Mrs. Berns became the proud principal of Edison School of the Arts and Nathan Tuttle assumed the role of CEO/Executive Director. Berns was teacher of the year and in the top 10 teach of the year candidates for Indianapolis Public Schools. She was the recipient of the Presidential Award for Teaching Mathematics and Science, and a 2-time recipient of the Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award. Mrs. Amy Berns completed the National Relay Principal Academy fellowship with distinction. She is passionate about education and the students, staff, families, and larger community that she serves.

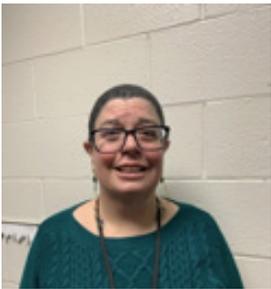


**BETH POHL** is a passionate and motivated educator. Ever inspired by the arts, she received her bachelor's degree in Theater Arts: Performance from California State University, Long Beach. She remained in Los Angeles for 12 years, honing her craft working in theatre, film, and television. It was during this time that she also began teaching youth theatre classes locally. This small change ignited a light in her that put her on the path to full-time teaching. She returned to school, receiving her Master's Degree in Elementary Education: Curriculum and Instruction from Shippensburg University. Her range of background has now placed her at the perfect location, Edison School of the Arts, where she can use both her arts and educational training and background to uniquely educate and inspire and promote arts-based learning.



The arts have always been a part of **AMBER PRICE**'s life from dance classes, to singing in her church choir, joining her high school and college marching bands, and majoring in music education playing the saxophone in college. Amber grew up in east Texas, where she received her bachelor's degree in music education from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. After moving to Indiana, she received her master's degree in music education with an emphasis in Orff Schulwerk from Anderson University. Amber is a certified Orff Schulwerk teacher, receiving her certification from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Amber taught general music in elementary schools for 21 years before moving into the role of Fine Arts Coordinator and Arts Integration Specialist at Edison School of the Arts.

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**MAURA RENZI** is a committed and enthusiastic teacher who has worked for the children of Indianapolis for 33 years. Renzi received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University-Indianapolis in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Kindergarten. Miss Renzi spent her first year of teaching in a 1st grade setting at Holy Cross Catholic School in downtown Indianapolis. In 1988, Miss Renzi went to work for Indianapolis Public Schools. During her years with IPS, Miss Renzi worked as a 2nd grade teacher, Title I Reading and Math specialist, and as a 1st grade teacher. While teaching, Renzi received her Master's of Education degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. Renzi has also been a trainer among teachers at both the school and district levels in the areas of reading, writing, and math. Renzi has been chosen as her school's teacher of the year 3 times. In 1996 Miss Renzi was chosen as IPS Teacher of the Year and was an Indiana Teacher of the Year semi-finalist. During her year as IPS Teacher of the Year, Miss Renzi was privileged to serve as an IPS Spokesperson and was featured in the IPS Commercial "Indy's Best Kept Secrets." In 2017 Miss Renzi followed her love for the arts and life-long learning and went to work at Edison School of the Arts as a 1st grade arts integration classroom teacher.

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**CINNITA SAYLES** is a 30-year veteran science teacher, who has spent those years in the Indianapolis Public School system. Cinnita is also an alumnus of the system in which she teaches, and this gives her immense pride. Over the years she has taught in various classroom settings including co-teaching with math, language, social studies, ESL, and special education teachers. She spent over a decade working in Alternative Education, and has taught both high school and middle school science to young luminous minds. Cinnita is presently teaching middle school science at Edison School of the Arts, and it is here where she continues to enrich her knowledge and teaching by learning how to truly integrate different art forms into her teaching style.



**NATHAN TUTTLE** is the Executive Director and CEO of Edison School of the Arts located in downtown Indianapolis. He received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Indiana University in 1998 and completed his Kodaly Levels I and II in 1999 and 2000 from Capital University in Columbus, OH. He began his teaching career in Batesville, IN teaching children's choir and general music to grades 4 and 5. During his time in Batesville, he became more and more acquainted with Indianapolis Children's Choir and eventually became a satellite conductor for ICC while also accepting a music and choir position with the International School of Indiana.

His interests were shifting to school administration. He soon accepted a position with Indianapolis Public Schools and eventually took the next step and obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching and Education Administration allowing him to become a School Administrator. Mr. Tuttle later became the Assistant Principal at James A. Garfield K-8 School, and later accepted a position as the principal for Nicholson Performing Arts Academy. After 2 years, IPS decided to expand the program from K-5 to K-8 and moved his team and families to a more central location in an even more beautiful and equipped facility. Since that move, Nicholson, renamed Edison in sync with the name of its new location, has been making huge academic gains and artistic gains with its over 600 students. Edison offers abundant and diverse choices of performing arts opportunities and has a rich authentic arts integration model in which a Kennedy Center Teaching Artists come to the school for 3 days a month, every month of school. During their stay, the Teaching Artists facilitate rigorous professional development with adults and demonstrate lessons with children during the school day, and Edison teachers complete lessons and observations. Nathan is passionate about children's academic education and their artistic development. Edison is a place where a child is in an environment that can truly be engaged in rigorous academics and the arts!