

Spartan Spotlight: Ms. Evonne Peterson, Art and Genius Hour Teacher



During her 25 years at Sedgefield Middle, Ms. Peterson has worn many hats. Today, she teaches both Art and Genius Hour electives. Additionally, she serves as the SLT chairperson, the staff representative on the PTO board, is a member of the AR committee and is a Spartan Robotics Facilitator.

Born and raised in Charlotte, Ms. Peterson holds a bachelor's degree in art education from North Carolina Central University; a master's degree in art education from Winthrop University; a master's of education in reading, language arts and literacy from UNCC; and certification in school administration from Western Carolina University.

Ms. Peterson was inspired by her mother, an educator for more than 30 years, to become a teacher. "The work I do is very rewarding," she said. "In my art classes, students learn about the importance of art, how art is used as a creative form of expression, to convey social and/or political views, and created for different purposes – both functional and decorative." Her students participate in art displays, exhibits and attend field trips to learn about artists.

In her role as Genius Hour teacher, Ms. Peterson works "with students to identify topics they are passionate about and guide them through design processes to become experts on a topic of their choice. They engage in extensive research and develop platforms to communicate what they have learned with their peers, the school and the community." Last semester, two students in different grade levels researched what it takes to become a fashion designer. They met with local business owners/designers from the community and are continuing their research this semester. They are in the process of planning a fashion show this spring featuring clothes loaned by their community partners.

Outside of school, Ms. Peterson is an avid reader, enjoys watching movies, exercising, and walking her three dogs – Charlie, a standard Labradoodle; Monty, a King Charles Cavalier; and Sophie, a miniature Schnauzer. She also enjoys traveling and once lived in Rota, Spain for three-and-a-half years on a military base while her spouse was stationed there; she traveled to eight other countries and fell in love with the slower way of life. Ms. Peterson has a daughter, Chelsey, and a twin sister.