I am thrilled to be the new Art teacher at Hazelwood Elementary. My name is Jessica Hauser-Flinchum. We have started the year off strong by keeping busy creating, observing, using our imaginations, and exploring art materials. I am excited to see the growth of the students year after year as I get to know them better and see their artwork and personalities change and grow.

My role as an art educator is to teach students that there is no exact way to create art, and that sometimes there are obstacles they may have to overcome. Coping with ambiguity, expressing opinions, and at times defending judgments are all essential elements required by artists. It is my job to provide my students with the necessary technical skills and knowledge of art materials. Students should gain an understanding of the full range of possibilities offered by visual arts, and then they can pursue their uniqueness when making a piece of art. I wish to instill in my students the desire to pursue their own happiness. Through art education, students can come closer to knowing themselves, and therefore closer to knowing what truly makes them happy.

 There will be many displays around the school that I invite you to stop by to see. I will keep you updated about art contests, if your child will be entered in one. Most of the artwork that we make will be coming home throughout the school year. Also, I will be taking pictures of students work throughout the school year.

 The art classroom would love any and all donations you are willing to make. The things that we use the most are pencils, colored/white paper, glue sticks, markers, and paint! We would love for you to make a small donation to help the children be able to do amazing artwork!

**ON A PERSONAL NOTE**

This is my first year as a teacher in a public school system, but I have had much training and past experience. I received my Master’s degree in Art Education at Western Carolina University in December 2013. I worked at The Bascom Museum in Highlands, NC for two years, teaching children and coordinating the Youth and Outreach program. My husband and I are originally from Mt. Airy, NC where our parents still live. I also received my undergraduate degree at Western Carolina University in Studio Art with a Concentration in Photography. I currently own a business called JHF Studio where I do photography for families, weddings, couples and much more! I also do watercolor paintings.

 I would love to hear from you, and you are welcome to stop by the school anytime to say hello, email me, or give me a call.

**Jessica Flinchum**

**Art Teacher**

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