

Made for Change

A Choice to Inspire

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Photo credits: Corey Aumiller

At Olentangy Liberty High School, in a dark, dim lit room, Mr. Aumiller is hard at work teaching his students all about digital media. Under the beard, Aumiller has a relatable, youthful personality that allows him to connect with his students.

Mr. Aumiller, an art teacher at Olentangy Liberty High School, has



Aumiller exploring another one of his passions. Since he was a young boy, he always had an interest in creating art. As a teacher he still makes time to create his own work.

been pursuing his passion of teaching students about creating and producing digital media and content.

Aumiller teaches Photography One, Art I, AP Art History, and four sections of Modeling and Animation.

“My favorite class to teach is Modeling and Animation,” Aumiller said.

In his 13 years of teaching, his favorite experiences included doing a film festival with his students.

“We would make an hour-long film,” Aumiller said. “That was really memorable.”

All he does today wouldn't have been possible without his passion for art, filmmaking, and drawing as a child.

This passion was guided by “a good mentor in my high school, who was a really great influence and showed me that I could make art and have fun doing it as my job,” Aumiller said.

After high school, he went to Ohio State University, but he didn't feel like it was for him.

“So after that, I decided to start attending the Columbus College of Art and Design,” Aumiller said.

He felt that while he was there,

he learned a lot about making different types of art and digital media.

“CCAD also showed me how to work with other people better in groups,” Aumiller said.

After graduating, he decided to go straight into teaching digital media classes.

“I went into a teaching program for a year and got my license and degree,” he said.

In addition to teaching and going to school, Aumiller had some key experiences that shaped who he was today.

“I did a lot of traveling in my 20s and 30s, and it had a pretty big impact on me,” Aumiller said.

For him, traveling is interesting because it allows him to see other cultures and see everyone's differences and similarities.

“I've done a lot of traveling, I've probably traveled to something like 30 countries,” Aumiller said.

Back in the classroom, he has had many accomplishments including helping his students with their passions.

“My greatest accomplishment is being able to help students achieve their goals if they are interested in pursuing

art,” Aumiller said.

He decided to be a photography teacher in the first place because he had already learned about other digital media.

“I have another degree in filmmaking, and since I trained in that it made sense to also do photography because the two are similar,” Aumiller said.

To him, while teaching all of these

classes can certainly be a great experience, it can also be the hardest thing about teaching.

“I would say one of the most difficult things when it comes to teaching is the burnout that can happen,” Aumiller said.

While teaching various classes with a lot of different material can be

hard, he believes that students can be one of the best parts of his job.

“I really like being around young people who have interesting and fun ideas who make me laugh,” he said.

One of Aumiller's Photography students, Arnav Sawant, shared his views on the digital media teacher.

“The first time I met him I thought he was pretty cool and he seemed like a chill teacher,” Sawant said.

One of the things that immediately caught his attention was the fact that Aumiller always makes sure to fit in with the students and like the same things they do in order to make class more relatable.

“He's best at just doing his job and helping students especially if they need help editing,” Sawant said.

“Metaphorically, he's best at making the environment feel safe and positive.”

For Aumiller, all of this comes down to a simple goal of wanting his students to feel heard, respected, and cared for.

To Aumiller, “you just gotta be kind and enjoy the adventure.”



As the end of the year comes to a close, Aumiller's students are working on their portfolios in Photo 1. While his students are at work, Aumiller is busy creating his own art and taking time to himself. “Since I was a young kid, I was always creating my own art and exploring my creativity,” Aumiller said.