



## State Board District 3 Matthew Szozda

Matthew Szozda is the art and design educator at Centerville City Schools District's W.O. Cline Elementary School. He holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in visual arts education from the University of Dayton. He teaches second through fifth grades but has taught students of all ages. He focuses on purpose-centered learning and charges his students with creating meaningful work that aligns with their aspirations. Matthew uses contemporary artists to fuel discussions with his student about how they might create commentary on their cultures to create change. He asks them to use these ideas as inspiration to formulate their own opinions as effective citizens.

Matthew also works to change the current educational landscape. His work with the University of Dayton's Institute for Applied Creativity for Transformation (IACT) focuses on using educators to reflect on the systems in which they work. This work allows them to lead the charge to develop a better education environment for both teachers and students. In 2019, these ideas were presented at the Dayton Engineering and Science Symposium, the Columbus Museum of Art-Creativity Institute and the Ohio School Board Association Conference.

Matthew has been involved in the Leaders for Creativity fellowship at the Columbus Museum of Art since 2016. This fellowship operates on a framework for teaching creativity and its fellows are researching how our educational systems support and make an impact on civic and creative capacities.

Matthew will take part in the Gilchrist Educators Residency in summer 2019.