

Nadine Bluemel grew up in Westlake, Ohio. She worked to put herself through Baldwin Wallace University. In 1990, she earned her Bachelor of Science in Education and was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education. That same year Nadine was hired to teach first grade at McKinley Elementary where she played guitar in the classroom every day and wrote original songs to enhance the topics being taught. While at McKinley, Nadine collaborated with Beck Center for the Arts to write Foster Foundation Grants through which all of the McKinley first graders and fifth graders took part in ten weeks of weekly art experiences for two consecutive years. She was Lakewood PTA Educator of the Year for McKinley Elementary in 1996 and Lakewood PTA Council Elementary Educator of the Year for the district that same year.

Nadine completed her Master of Education in Curriculum at Ashland University. She achieved National Boards for Professional Teaching Standards Early Childhood Generalist Certification in 1998. That same year, Nadine received The Governor's Educational Leadership Award, presented by Senator Voinovich and Governor Taft. In 2001, Nadine began teaching second and third-grade students in the Gifted and Talented program at Grant Elementary and later at Emerson Elementary. In 2003, she received the Evelyn T. Sabol Excellence in Arts Education Award from the Playhouse Square Association. Nadine was named Lakewood PTA Council Educator of the Year at Grant Elementary in 2008. In 2011 she earned her Master Teacher title.

Nadine completed her Gifted and Talented Certification at Cleveland State University. In addition to teaching, she wrote grants that brought well over \$10,000 into the Lakewood City Schools District for science, arts, and social studies programs. Over the course of six years, pursuant to a grant from the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation in conjunction with the local public television station, WVIZ, Nadine's students created six documentaries touching on topics in Lakewood history. In 2007, together with The Lakewood Historical Society, Nadine and her students received the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums Excellence Award and in 2008 they received the American Association for State and Local History Award of Merit for The Lakewood History Projects.

In a memorable art lesson, Nadine taught about the art of Viktor Schreckengost, whose iconic Great Lakes Mural and Early Settler sculptures grace Lakewood High School to this day. Her students created cards in the style of Schreckengost's world-famous Jazz Bowl and wrote to thank him for his creations and inspiration. He contacted the class and began a wonderful relationship with the students during which he visited the classroom over the next few years. The Schreckengost Foundation organized a sale of the cards the children had created and presented the students with a \$1,000.00 check which the class used to create the V.I.K. (Very Involved Kids) Foundation, which awarded grants to teachers in Lakewood to be used for arts-related projects. In 2004, Nadine and her students hosted Viktor and his family at a small reception to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of the Early Settler sculpture. During Nadine's final year of teaching, her students at Emerson Elementary worked with the Lakewood Historical Society and The Cowan Pottery Museum Associates to have an Ohio Historical Marker placed at the site of the original Cowan Pottery at 1360 Nicholson Ave. in Lakewood.

Nadine retired in 2013 and has since volunteered with the Cowan Pottery Museum Associates and served on their board. She is an avid nature photographer and has enjoyed sharing her photos in local West Life Newspapers and birding magazines. She has won Ohio News Media Association Hooper Awards for her photography.

