



## Clark Public Schools

### Carl H. Kumpf Middle School

59 Mildred Terrace • Clark, New Jersey 07066

732-381-0400 (Telephone) • 732-381-0262 (Facsimile)

**Richard Delmonaco**

*Principal*

**Amanda J. Clarke**

*Assistant Principal*

Mr. Thomas Peitz is an extraordinary Art Teacher at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School. Each year, he sees every student in the school, and gives each one of his students individualized attention to explore their abilities. His lessons are designed to be challenging and creative, while still giving middle school students an understanding of arts concepts and practices. Students enjoy his lessons and his appreciation of the Visual Arts.

Mr. Peitz began teaching Art at Kumpf in 2014. Prior to that he taught at the Morris Union Jointure Commission Developmental Learning Center. He holds a Masters in Special Education from Kean University and a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Ringling College of Art and Design.

This however is not what sets Mr. Peitz apart from other outstanding educators. It is his compassion and willingness to go above and beyond. Each day, during his prep and lunch periods, Mr. Peitz will open his classroom to students who want to work on projects or contribute to school projects in the halls. He never gives up on a student. Mr. Peitz takes the time to involve all students and goes out of his way to assist every student. He takes the time to understand each of his students to better help each one be successful and feeling important.

Mr. Peitz is also active outside the classroom with Art Club, Science Olympiad, assisting with the Drama Club, serving as the set designer for the school play, and participating in many school activities. He never turns away a student who shows an interest in Art and wants to be a part of an activity. This year, Mr. Peitz has been working to integrate the Arts into other subject areas. As such, he has been working with other teachers across the curriculum and it has proven to be quite enjoyable. He has presented on Arts Integration to other educators and is working to assist the elementary schools.

Recently, a parent shared an email about Mr. Peitz, which really sums up how the parents and students feel about Mr. Peitz. It reads,

*"I wanted to reach out and share with you how excited my son is with your class daily! He's so proud of his projects and he can't wait to share them at home! He really enjoys the work and the homework!!! Thank you for making that part of his day so interesting!*

*Also a huge thanks in helping my daughter prepare for the Union County Arts audition. When we prepped for the audition her answer to who inspired her interest in art, the answer was **you!** It's great to see teachers passionate about their work, THANK YOU!!!"*