CULTIVATING KID’S CREATIVITY*
Creativity is an essential skill in the 21st Century. These days, however, our children (change to students when referring to secondary students) have limited opportunities to think creatively and practice creative processes. In this workshop, educators will explore the brain science of creativity, the creative process, creative approaches to academic activities, and ways for responding to children’s work that promote creative development. Creativity exists in everyone and can thrive in all academic disciplines. Educators have creative abilities, too. So, in order to facilitate our own creative thinking, we will make journals in which to record our thoughts about creativity and begin to collect ideas for future creative possibilities.

CREATIVITY INTERVENTION
A Means to Safe and Emotionally Healthy Schools
An innovative approach to student needs and behaviors, Creativity Intervention Training is for all educators who are interested in addressing students’ underlying issues through creative activities. This is for you if you are a teacher, creative writing/arts teacher, administrator, dean, disciplinary personnel, or counselor. We will explore how creative writing and the arts can help students identify their stressors and how empathetic adult responses can support and guide students through the life challenges that impact their school behaviors.

We will try out our own written and/or artistic expression and practice self-reflection in a non-judgmental/psychologically safe environment. We will review some educational psychology, find out about three different models of Creativity Intervention, and witness examples of students’ creative expression that effected change in their lives.

All students can improve their lives through creativity, but students at risk of bringing violence into schools are especially in need of relationships with adults that, through creativity, help them to be known, better understood, and guided toward strategies and resources for dealing with their challenges. Creative expression has the power to transform lives and make school a more enriching and safe place to learn.
Instructor Bio

Niki Gnezda is a Creativity Specialist and retired art teacher with a Ph.D. in Creativity Studies. She has practiced art education at all levels, Pre-K, K-12, and university. During her teaching career, Niki has innovated and implemented several Creativity Intervention programs in her schools, including *Creative Mondays*, an after-school group; *Arts Intervention* a program for students assigned to “In-School Suspensions;” an intervention program for low-income children, and classroom curricula based on Creative Intervention principles.

She is the author of *Teaching Difficult Students: Blue Jays in the Classroom* (Rowman & Littlefield), a book about humane and effective approaches for helping students change their behaviors. She has also published several articles and has conducted numerous local, state, and national-level workshops about creativity and teaching. She has also been featured in *NEA Today, The School Administrator*, and other publications, and has been interviewed on WOSU radio.

As part of her community outreach, Niki developed and runs an Arts Intervention program for Columbus’ *Homeless Families Foundation*. For this work, she was recognized in 2017 by *The Columbus Dispatch* as an *Everyday Hero*.

Her website is [www.compassioncreativityandteaching.com](http://www.compassioncreativityandteaching.com). Please contact Anne Touvell at 614-464-1032 ext. 10 or atouvell@thurberhouse.org if you are interested in this professional development opportunity.