



Eric Laurits
 Instructional Leader
 PBL Ninja
 Manager of Mischief

📞 0742 208 647

✉ eric.laurits@gmail.com

📍 Nairobi, KE

EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Professor | 01.2021 - current

George Mason University | Fairfax, VA

- » Children's Literature for Teaching in Diverse Settings
- » Introduction to Education: Teaching, Learning, and Schools
- » Methods of Teaching Social Studies and Integrating Fine Arts in the Elementary Classroom
- » Professional Development School Advisory Group
- » 9 Essentials in Action Committee (NAPDS)

Innovation Space Director/Resource | 08.2020 - 07.2021

Daniels Run Elementary School | Fairfax, VA

- » Designed and implemented K-6 STEAM/Innovation curriculum in collaboration with grade-level teams
- » Designed and implemented the PBL and Portrait of a Graduate goals for School Innovation and Improvement Plan
- » Served as lead Mentor for pre-service teachers and interns
- » Led PBL and experiential learning design training for all grades
- » Collected and analyzed school-wide data for PBL implementation and effectiveness to create scaffolded PBL work to meet distance and in-person needs

Elementary Teacher | 08.2018 - 07.2020

Daniels Run Elementary School | Fairfax, VA
FCPS Outstanding New Teacher award

- » Taught Fourth Grade Advanced Academics Program and Fifth Grade general education in diverse Title I setting
- » Served as technology and math team leads
- » Implemented personalized learning environments, fostered digital literacy and citizenship through student created podcasts, virtual museums, websites

Owner/Principal Photographer | 2004 - 2017

eric laurits photography, LLC

Founded nationally recognized photography studio specializing in documentary work and branding/identity portraiture for large corporate clients (Google, Greylock Partners, Chipotle, CorePower Yoga, etc.). Successfully ran small business, balancing multiple schedules, digital asset management, and troubleshooting with effective client-centered communication. Commissioned nationally and internationally for teaching, speaking, workshops, and seminars.

Teaching Artist | 2006- 2007

Denver Center Theatre Company | Denver, CO

Pioneered songwriting/lyrics program and guided collaborative creation at summer theatre academy for children with focus on performance, expression, and exploration. Worked with students from grades K-12 in yoga, songwriting, performance, and music. Facilitated organization of musical performances and teaching curriculums for other teachers.

THREE WORD PHILOSOPHIES

Learning is social

Silly, honest, kind

Teaching is differentiation

Vital > Inclusive

Reflect, reflect, reflect

Notice, name, frame

Our community matters

Social-emotional first

So what's next?

Lead from within

Voice and choice

Eat more bread

EDUCATION

M.Ed., Curriculum and Instruction | 2017 - 2018

George Mason University | Fairfax, VA

Program Award Winner; PDS Emerging Leader Award (nominee); Student Ambassador (nominated by peers and professors)

- » Aided in design of GMU's Elementary Education undergraduate program as part of PDS Advisory Group
- » Presented twice at NAPDS 2018 in Jacksonville, FL

M.F.A., Acting | 2004 - 2007

National Theatre Conservatory | Denver, CO

Nationally top-5 ranked MFA program. Conservatory intensive training for stage and screen performance as well as pedagogical instruction at the college level. Can teach low-flying trapeze and aerial work.

B.A., Music | 1998-2002

Colby College | Waterville, ME

Cum Laude

Recognized for outstanding leadership. Directed multiple student-run musical and volunteer groups. On/Off-Campus EMT. Active in residence life as an RA.



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REFERENCES

 **Lois Groth, PhD**
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 **Audra Parker, PhD**
 George Mason Univ.
 P: +1 (703) 993-9717
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available upon request

 **Christopher Smith**
 Daniels Run Elementary
 P: +1 (703) 77-9037
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 **Erin Denton**
 Daniels Run Elementary
 P: +1 (571) 379-6079
 E: edenton@fcps.edu

SCHOLARSHIP

Brown, E.L.; Groth, L.A., Parker, A; **Laurits, E.**; O'Brien, C. (January, 2022) Pathways to Partnership: How a Differentiated Approach Sustained PDS Efforts During Times of Uncertainty. *School-University Partnerships Special Issue: Teaching in the Times of Uncertainty.*

Groth, L.A., & **Laurits, E.** (February, 2021). Daniels Run and Mason: Stronger together. Keynote Address presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Professional Development Schools, Virtual Conference.

Groth, L.A., & **Laurits, E.** (February, 2021). Daniels Run and Mason PDS. Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association of Professional Development Schools, Virtual Conference.

Groth, L.A., **Laurits, E.**, Morrison, K., Gaskill, T., Beach, E., & Rucker, I. (February, 2020). *Notice, name, frame, follow: A framework for action research in a PDS.* Presentation at the annual meeting of the National Association of Professional Development Schools (Atlantic City, NJ).

Laurits, E., Rucker, I. (May, 2019) *Action Research in the Real World: Notice, Name, frame, and follow.* Keynote presentation at George Mason University's pre-service teacher action research symposium, TIPS (Fairfax, VA)

*full list available upon request

PREVIOUS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Director | 2003 - 2004

Colby Cares About Kids/AmeriCorps*VISTA | Waterville, ME

Organized recruitment, scheduling, education, support, and professional development for mentors during a year in service.

- » Coordinated daily site visits, scheduling, and transportation for over 1,000 mentor/mentee relationships.
- » Fostered healthy relationships between local public schools and collegiate institution through organization of community events, social awareness campaigns, and speaking engagements.
- » Authored a startup guide for colleges and universities looking to implement a similar program model.

Cabin Leader/Assistant Program Director | 1996 - 2004

YMCA Camp Belknap | Wolfeboro, NH

Tom Gigi Leadership Award

Colin Brown Leadership Award

Taught core values, promoted confidence, and encouraged expression among children ages 8-16 at one of the oldest and most respected summer camps in the country. During tenure, served as ropes course, sailing, waterskiing, volleyball, drama, music, soccer, program heads as well as various division and leadership heads.

CERTIFICATIONS/ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia Society for Technology in Education; National Association of Professional Development Schools; Responsive Classroom; Advanced Academics (in progress)

RECENT AWARDS

2020 FCPS Outstanding New Teacher

2018 GMU Program Award

2018 NAPDS Emerging Leader (nominee)



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PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Community matters. Learning is social. Social-emotional first. Teaching does not happen without differentiation. Inquiry breeds engagement. Voice and Choice. Student agency. Be silly, be honest, and be kind. Concept based curriculum. Wholistic and experiential learning. Ask more questions. Language matters.

PHILOSOPHY OF LEADING

Listen. Side with your team. Walk and talk. Earn the respect you think you deserve. There is no I, there is us and we. Leading does not happen without differentiation. Responsive, reflective, and ready.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

As we began to experience the rippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our learning environments shifted in startling ways. Below is a small collection of videos from that time.

Math Warmups - During the initial phase of the pandemic, we switched mid-year to virtual learning. As the math instructional lead, I designed math warmup and extension work for 4th grade.

Cooking in Carhartt [Episode 4](#) | [Playlist](#)

Math IRL with Mr. L. [Episode 3](#) | [Playlist](#)

Building Community/Preparing for School - I created a video series to prepare our elementary students and parents for the 2020-2021 school year.

Back to School-apaloozathonfest (parents) [Episode 2](#) | [Playlist](#)

Back to School-apaloozathonfest (students) [Episode 2](#) | [Playlist](#)

Bring us Together - Our principal asked me lead school-wide community building during virtual learning. I developed a morning news show that provided a school-wide shared experience and enabled students to participate through the use of their own technology.

WDRE Morning News [September 23rd Episode](#) | [April 12th Episode](#) | [Playlist](#)