

**SUSAN BREKKE BENSON**

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**PERSONAL**

<i>Birth Date:</i>	April 30, 1953	<i>Disposition:</i>	hard working, good sense of humor, adventurous, flexible
<i>Status:</i>	Married, two independent children	<i>Interests:</i>	history, languages, travel, genealogy, piano, photography, gardening, people
<i>Languages:</i>	English, French, Spanish, Norwegian		
<i>Citizenship:</i>	United States		

**PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

<b>Director of Media Services</b>	Aitkin Junior-Senior High School - Aitkin, Minnesota 2002-present. •Technology Integrationist •Audio-Visual Production •Library Administration •In-Service Training
<b>Media Specialist</b>	Little Falls Community High School - Little Falls, Minnesota 2001-2002.
<b>Gifted and Talented Coordinator</b>	Mid-State Education District - Little Falls, Minnesota 2000-2001.
<b>College Instructor</b>	Freshman Composition, Public Speaking, Introduction to Literature 2001-present.
<b>Art Instructor</b>	Little Falls Community Middle School - Little Falls, Minnesota 1990-2000. •Grade 7; Inter-disciplinary, multi-cultural curriculum design. •Technology: Hyperstudio, Photo Shop, AppleWorks Draw and Paint
<b>Art Instructor</b>	McGregor Public School, Grades K-12 - McGregor, Minnesota 1984-1990.
<b>English Instructor</b>	McGregor Senior High School - McGregor, Minnesota 1989-90.
<b>Talent and Gifted Coordinator</b>	McGregor Public Schools - McGregor, Minnesota 1985-1990. •Program design and instruction; Student selection and testing. •Knowledge Bowl and Odyssey of the Mind.
<b>Music Teacher</b>	Private piano lessons, 1974-1993.

**EDUCATION**

<b>Media Specialist</b>	<b>St. Cloud State University</b> (expected 2006).
<b>Master of Arts</b>	<b>American Studies, 2000. St. Cloud State University</b> , St. Cloud, Minnesota.
<b>Certification</b>	Gifted and Talented. <b>Hamline University</b> , St. Paul, Minnesota 2001.
<b>Graduate Studies</b>	Art Education <b>University of Minnesota</b> , Minneapolis, Minnesota 1986-90.
<b>BA 1973 Cum Laude</b>	Studio Art, English, Art Education <b>Gustavus Adolphus College</b> , St. Peter, MN, 1969-73.

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- ESL Teacher.
- Co-ordinator of integrated Fine Arts showcase evenings, Middle Level Education Month.
- High School Yearbook Advisor/Teacher.
- Presenter-Educational Workshops: Differentiated Instruction, Implementing Gifted and Talented Programs.

- Presenter – Workshops: WebQuest Design, Teaching with Technology, iPhoto, Digital Cameras, Power Point.
- Danish Cultural Institute Teacher Exchange – 1996.
- Creator and Presenter: Creativity Workshops.
- Instructor: Summer arts programs for young people.
- 15 years 4-H Program Leader (Creative Arts, Photography, Home Environment, Entomology.
- 6 years Gifted/Talented Volunteer Teacher St. Peter and Aitkin Public Schools.
- Community Education Teacher: Calligraphy, Ceramics, Conversational French.
- Little League Baseball coach-6 years; Organized instructional league for youth tennis.
- Little Falls-Le Bourget (France) Sister City Committee, 1995-2002, Officer.
- Plan regular field trips to theatrical performances, science and history museums, sporting events.
- Kinship Partner (Big Brother-Big Sister Organization).
- Congregational Representative, Oak Grove Academy; Church School teacher, Church Choir Director.
- Memberships: Education Minnesota, National Education Association, Media Educators of Minnesota, Art Educators of Minnesota, Minnesota Historical Society, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Minnesota Public Radio.

### **EXTRA CURRIULAR**

- National History Day Advisor
- Academic Triathlon Coach
- Knowledge Bowl Coach
- Yearbook Advisor
- Video Production Club,
- Odyssey of the Mind Coach

### **TRAVEL**

- Extensive travel experience throughout Western Europe, Canada and USA
- Have lived in USA, Canada, England, Denmark, and France

### **AUTHOR:**

- 2 Books: *From Mountains to Prairies: A Case Study in Rural Ethnic Community Formation*  
*For Care and Protection: A Memoir*

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Minnesota Humanities Commission Folk Arts Fellowship to study Rosmaling.

MHC Teacher Institute:

- Creative Writing: “Signatures: The Autobiographical Act in Everyday Life”.
- History and Culture of Cuba.
- Anthropology “What This Awl Means”.
- Using Primary Sources in the Social Studies Classroom.

MAX: Minnesota Arts Experience Studio Arts Fellowship.

J. Paul Getty Fellowship: Discipline Based Arts Education.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

- PhotoShop, iPhoto, Pixela.
- Adobe Premiere, Pinnacle, U-Lead, and most video production software.
- Dreamweaver Web Page design, Graphic Design with paint and draw programs.
- PowerPoint, Hyperstudio, PageMaker, most desktop publishing, etc.
- Macintosh and PC operating systems.
- Electronic Library collection, cataloguing, and circulation management programs.
- InteGrade Pro, SASI Student Management, GroupWise Email.