

Hi George!

My name is Andre Gignac. I am a Junior High Social Studies and CTS Creative Shop and Woodworking teacher at a school in northern Alberta, Canada.

I have been teaching since 1999 and completed my 20th year of full-time teaching.

When not teaching, I do home renovations, learn to use my CNC machine, advance my knowledge in lasering woodworking, camp, fish, boat, and kayaking. I am a father of 7 boys aged 9-19 years of age. I have been married for 19 years.

I started my teaching career in Saskatchewan, Canada and eventually ended up here in Alberta. The student clientele that I work with is about 90%, aboriginal students. I find them to be very enthusiastic and creative!

My job was actually, originally, temporary as I was initially hired to replace a maternity leave. My family remained in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan for the year I spent in northern Alberta. This caused me to feel quite homesick. In Moose Jaw, I would make pens and small turnings so I asked my administrator if I could purchase an inexpensive mini lathe and create pens after school and in my spare time. This caught the attention of many junior high students who eventually asked me to show them how to make their own.

Next thing I knew, many students started to stay after school to learn to make their own pens and many became very good at it. Some went on to create small entrepreneur businesses for themselves making and selling pens! Students, as many as 15-20 would ask if I would come to the school on Saturdays to teach them and so I did!

I believe in my heart that pen crafting and woodworking secured a teaching position here at this school as I was invited to return the second year even after the person I was replacing returned to her teaching position!

Since then, to this day, we continue teaching pen crafting, woodturning, wood burning (pyrography), and large turnings.

How do I plan to use your laser in this program? I will have students take the woodwork they create and start to personalize them by adding their names, a saying, a symbol or anything they are willing and able to add to bring their work to a higher level. Developing a desire to go further is key in education and I believe I will be able to accomplish this using your laser!

I, we, look forward to this amazing opportunity!

Andre Gignac

Valleyview, Alberta, Canada

My mailing address is Box 840

Valleyview, Alberta

T0H 3N0

(780) 552-4197 is my cell #