



My desire for creating a visual reminder of my deepest hope was to model for my students the ability we have to communicate in meaningful ways through art. Often when we learn the story behind a piece of art it becomes much richer. The same is also true when it comes to learning more about our students' stories. When an investment is made into understanding them, we get to see a bit more of who they were created to be.



In this piece, the landscape was painted in hopes of igniting a sense of **wonder** and possibility, much like the wide-open spaces of the Midwest. The road invites the viewer to enter and **explore** a journey of moving forward, always **increasing** our knowledge and understanding. As in many areas of a student's story, it is about the process and being willing to uncover what they have been uniquely **gifted** with. This is a little bit like traveling down a road, over the next hills, or around the next corner to discover something new. The part of the painting which shows the image as not yet finished reveals the artist's process of **creating**, which also points to how we too are a work of art still taking shape.

- Sara Mulder, High School Art Teacher,
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