

*"I use the phrase beautiful work broadly. Recently a teacher at the beginning of my presentation called out, My goodness! You've been talking so much about beautiful work that I thought you were an art teacher; this stuff is math and science. As a fifth and sixth grade teacher in a small town I teach all subjects; **work of excellence is any discipline is beautiful to me and I don't hesitate to label it so.**"*

*Nerger, Ron. 2003, An Ethic of Excellence: Building a Culture of Craftsmanship with Students, Heinemann, Portsmouth, NH*

I am the senior Art teacher at Mark Oliphant College and this statement really resonated with me. I have come back from High Tech High and started talking in senior staff meetings about beautiful work and unfortunately I can see the looks on some of the faces and I know what they are thinking. Its easy for her she's the Art teacher, how am I meant to do this in English, Maths or Science.

I have been thinking about this a lot because all of the teachers that went to High Tech High from our school are specialists in elective subjects or teachers that teach in younger years where they teach everything. There are no teachers from compulsory subjects like English, Maths or Science (Middle and Senior) that have seen or experienced High Tech High.

It is evident that we don't celebrate our beautiful works enough at our school in any subject and we need to improve that. We are a new school and have been finding our feet for the last few years but now we need to create a culture of excellence. So therefore we need to surround ourselves with it.

My question is this, how can I as the Art teacher support other teachers in the senior years faculty to embrace celebrating works of excellence and its beauty? How can I get busy teachers to embrace this enough to spend their time putting it out there for others to see?