A National Board Certified Teacher, Ms. Heidi Adler is the department chair for Fine Arts at Sumter High School.  She is the instructor for both IB Visual Arts and AP Studio Art.  She currently holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching for Studio Art from the University of South Carolina.  She received her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts also from the University of South Carolina.  She taught in the District’s Gifted and Talented Arts program for 18 years.  Ms. Adler also has experience at the elementary school level having taught visual arts at Alice Drive Elementary School from 1998-2000 and at Cherryvale Elementary as well as Rafting Creek Elementary School from 1997-1998.

Born in Tucson, Arizona, Ms. Adler has lived all over the United States and graduated from High School in Bitburg, Germany. She has had the opportunity to live in the following places. Fort Walton Beach, Florida; Goldsboro, North Carolina; Tipton, Indiana; George AFB, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Universal City, Texas; and Spangdahlem, Germany.  She has travelled extensively, having visited Mexico, Germany, Spain, France, Belgium the Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg.  She has also been to the Middle East, specifically Israel and Jordan.  She has also travelled to South Korea.

In her spare time, she enjoys making all types of art in many different mediums and working on her old house that was built in 1910.  She loves the outdoors and working  in the community, painting murals, serving on festival planning committees, and making art more accessible to artists of all ages.

She feels that her mission in education is to reach every student that enters her classroom regardless of their background or ability level. Every child needs the chance to be taught and have opportunities to experience success. Each art lesson, though focused on specific objectives, has the purpose of working toward the development of the whole student.  Students work on projects in her class that develop critical thinking, creative problem solving, teamwork and following multi-step directions. These skills are imperative to the forming of responsible citizens, skills that students will take with them out into the world as they start careers and families.

In regards to the place of the International Baccalaureate at Sumter High School, she offers this perspective: IB gives high school students the opportunity to learn about the world in which they live.  They are encouraged to seek out historical and current information in our culture and others.  The classes foster creative thinking and exploration.