

Jane Reese: Graphic Designer

Jane Reese, a graduate of Olympus High School in Granite School District, attributes her success in college to the CTE courses she took in high school. Jane says her interest in graphic design began at a young age and that participating in CTE shaped her career goals. *“Participating in CTE courses throughout my high school experience strongly shaped my career goals and aspirations. As someone who loves to create, I have always dreamed of a job where making things is my 9:00-5:00. In high school, I was thrilled to find out that I could take classes that would help me explore these creative endeavors.”*



HIGH SCHOOL: While in high school, Jane enrolled in graphic design classes and learned how to use Adobe Creative Suite. Using the skills she developed in Adobe Illustrator, Jane created T-shirts, mugs, posters, stickers, and other items. *“Graphics was my favorite class. Sometimes I would even stay after school to work on my designs. I was so fortunate to have a classroom filled with high-quality design and printing equipment. If it weren’t for these CTE courses, I would not have been able to explore a passion that I have come to know and love so well.”*

COLLEGE: Jane entered college to pursue a degree in graphic design. As she began her studies she realized that what she learned in high school and the skills she developed in her high school graphic design classes gave her a huge advantage. *“As my high school experience ended, I was fortunate enough to graduate with design experience and a greater sense of what I wanted to study in college. As I began my courses at Brigham Young University it was a no brainer that I would continue my design work. I spent the next four years in the BYU AdLab studying to be an art director. Art direction is a fancy job title for a graphic designer who makes advertisements. As I began my art direction course work, I watched as my peers tried to master the Adobe Creative Suite. I felt so extremely blessed that I had an extra edge.*

“The skills I had learned during my time in CTE classes helped me to excel in the top advertising program in the United States. While others struggled to master skills, I learned deeper concepts and always felt one step ahead. This edge I was given was not because I was any better than any other designers, but because of the wonderful teacher I had in my CTE classes. Learning the skills and tools of design in high school helped me to always feel ready for the tasks ahead. Deciding what career to move into is a huge decision. Many spend their first few years of college deciding what classes to take and career paths to go down. My experiences in CTE helped give me confidence to take a leap into a new career path starting my first day at university.”

CAREER: After earning a bachelor’s degree in graphic design, Jane accepted a offer with Walt Disney Corporation. *“Throughout college I was able to have many amazing design opportunities. I got to be on real commercial sets, design logos and ads for real life brands, win awards for my work, and continue to push my art direction career forward. As a recent BYU graduate, I am now moving across the country to Florida to work for the Walt Disney Corporation. There, I will be an art director working on ads for Disney parks and resorts. Making things will officially become my 9:00-5:00. It is because of my high school graphics courses that I was able to start moving into the world of design. I am beyond grateful for my CTE courses and teacher who helped give me the start and confidence to go down a creative career path.”*



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“A huge thank you to the CTE program for helping me start my creative journey.”