

# arts INfusion

March 2010

## A publication of Shelby County Schools Fine Arts Department

Department of  
Curriculum and Accountability

### SCS Fine Arts Department Hosts 1st Arts Infusion Workshop

#### Pilot Schools Receive Arts Infusion 101 Training

Teachers and administrators from Rivercrest Elementary School, E.A. Harrold Elementary School, Shadowland Middle School and Millington Middle School assembled at Central Office on Friday, February 12 for an Arts Infusion 101 half-day professional development session. This event was coordinated by Brad Foust, Art/Music PDAE Grant Facilitator and Margaret Gilmore, Fine Arts Supervisor. Teachers and administrators received information on the purpose and goals of the PDAE grant, an overview of the philosophy

and research supporting arts infusion, as well as specialized sessions for art/music teachers, classroom teachers and administrators.

Robyne Batson, teacher at Covington Integrated Arts Academy and Arts Integration Specialist with the Tennessee Arts Commission, and Amelia Barton, Artistic Director with the Crittenden Arts Council, provided engaging sessions in the basic components of an arts infusion program, as well as demonstrations of arts-infused lessons.

The participating pilot schools will continue to receive arts infusion training throughout the remainder of the 2009-10

school year, including a arts infusion school visit on March 23.

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## Keys for Success

### Oklahoma A+ Schools Identify Three Key Components of a Successful Arts Infusion Program

Oklahoma A+ Schools is a statewide consortium of arts infused schools. Over 60 schools in the state of Oklahoma participate in the program, and project directors have identified three keys to success in an arts infused school:

#### 1. Collaboration

The collaborative process is crucial for success at all levels, from the classroom to the school community. Many arts infused schools resemble what are known as Professional Learning Communities (PLC).

#### 2. Infrastructure

The framework for arts infused schools must involve ongoing professional development, clear and achievable goals, relationships with local and statewide arts organizations and local school supervision and direction.

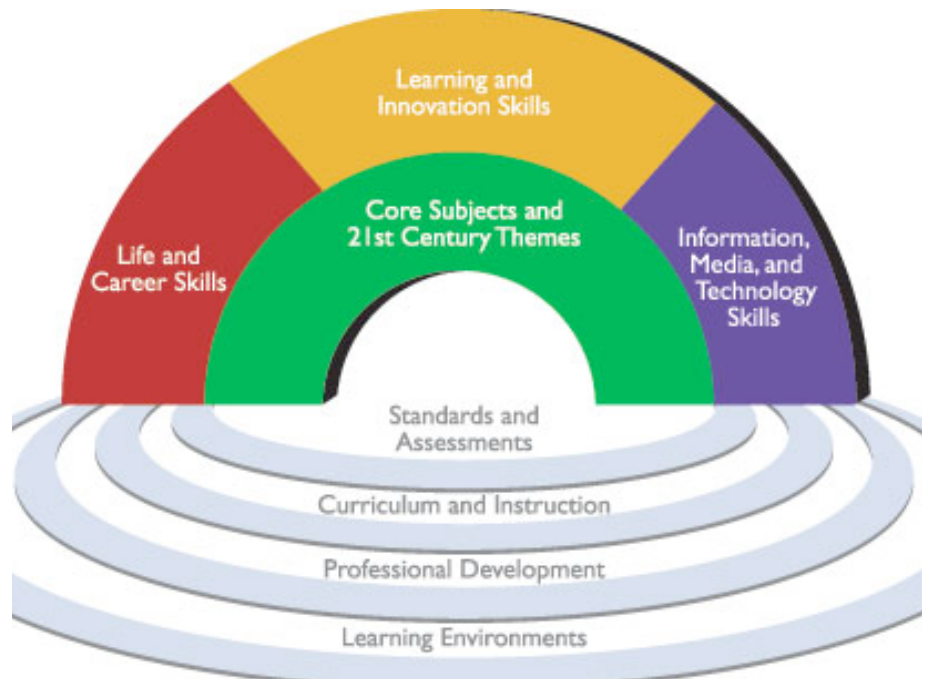
#### 3. Climate

If a school's climate is not conducive to collaboration or to working within the structure of an arts infused professional development model, an arts infused program will not succeed in that school. Arts infusion is a whole school effort to increase student achievement.

## Comments? Questions?

Please call or email any questions or comments you may have about arts infusion:

Brad Foust  
Art/Music PDAE Grant Facilitator  
Shelby County Schools  
901-321-2607 office  
901-321-2566 fax  
[bfoust@scsk12.org](mailto:bfoust@scsk12.org)



Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills

## Skills Needed for Success in the 21st Century Found in the Arts Infused Curriculum

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, an organization comprised of government, education and workforce representatives, has outlined the student outcomes crucial for success in work and life in the 21st century. In their document, The Intellectual and Policy Foundations of the 21st Century Skills Framework, *interdisciplinary instruction* in education is identified as a successful strategy in helping students learn to draw on "multiple knowledge domains to find solutions for many of today's problems" (p. 10).

As illustrated by the graphic above, learning and innovation skills are key among the set of skills needed in today's work environment. These skills, including creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration are, according to the Framework for 21st Century Learning, what "separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in today's world and those who are not" (p. 2).

In the arts infused school, students work in, with and through the arts to build these skills, while at the same time increasing skills in subjects such as reading and math. As stated by Howard Gardner, "every intelligence has the potential to be mobilized for the arts (Harvard Education Letter, 1999). The skills and intelligences desired by organizations such as Apple, Microsoft and Intel (partners in the 21st Century Skills Partnership) are intended outcomes of the Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion project.

## Upcoming Arts Infusion Events

March 23, 2010- Whole School Visit- Tupelo, MS (pilot schools)  
Thomas Street Elementary School  
Tupelo Middle School  
(for more info on these schools, please visit their websites at:  
<http://www.tupeloschools.com>

June 15-17, 2010- Shelby County Arts Infusion Workshop  
(all participating schools)

February-May 2010- Arts Infusion 101 session (all participating schools)  
Mr. Foust is available to come to your school and present a 45 minute "Arts Infusion 101" session. Please call 321-2607 to schedule a date and time.