

arts **IN**fusion

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SCS Arts Infusion Teachers Visit AI Schools In Mississippi

Teachers See Arts Infusion in Action in Two MS Schools

Tuesday, September 28, 2010 was no ordinary day for 17 SCS teachers. Instead of teaching their students, preparing lessons and attending to daily duties, they accompanied Brad Foust, Art/Music Grant Facilitator, to Tupelo, Mississippi for a day of classroom observations, school tours and conversations with experienced arts infusion teachers.

Thomas Street Elementary, an arts infusion model school, and Tupelo Middle School, a first-year arts infusion whole school, hosted the teachers for a

“day in the life” tour of two arts infusion schools.

Dr. Debbie Davis, principal of Thomas Street Elementary, and Linda Clifton, Principal of Tupelo Middle School, hosted teachers from the following SCS schools: Bartlett Elementary, Highland Oaks Elementary, Southwind Elementary, Dexter Middle, Mt. Pisgah Middle and Woodstock Middle.

The day began with a tour of Thomas Street Elementary, a K-2 school with a population of approximately 425 students. At the conclusion of the tour, middle school teachers made the short trip to Tupelo Middle School, a grade

7-8 school of over 1200 students. Classroom observations followed, and a lunchtime question and answer session with teachers and administrators proved to be both informative and entertaining. The visit concluded with a tour of Tupelo Middle School.

Results from teacher surveys show the positive impact of the visit. In upcoming months, more teachers from SCS will make the visit to Tupelo to observe arts infusion in two outstanding AI schools.

Please see p. 2 for pictures from the September 28 trip.

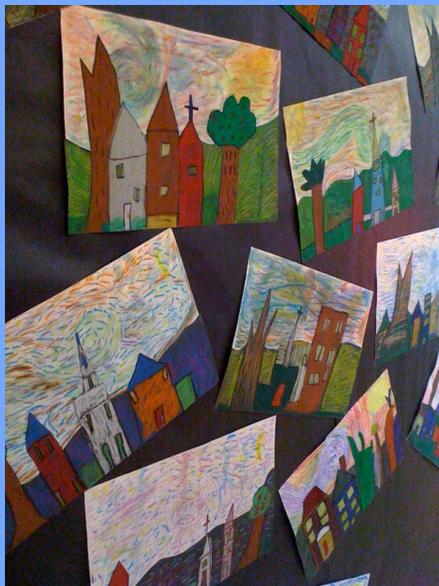


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Pictures from Arts Infusion School Visit

September 28, 2010



Arts Infusion Teacher Focus

VTS Takes Center Stage at Southwind Elementary

In Candice Brewer's 4th grade class, it's all about the students. She is open to strategies that both boost interest in learning and create an environment of collaboration and teamwork. This openness led her to sign up for a Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) training session at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, and ever since, her students have been reaping the benefits.

Ms. Brewer uses VTS in a number of ways, but one of the most innovative is with reading stories. The example pictured here represents her merging of VTS with the story, What Jo Did. Students did a VTS lesson with Parade on Hammond Street by artist Allan Crite, read the story, then concluded the unit by incorporating characters from the story into the art print through creative

writing. "This had the students making connections to themselves, the story, and the real-world. The students loved the activity, because they felt that they got to become artists and writers just like famous people," said Ms. Brewer.

She continues to use VTS with weekly reading stories, and her students are responding in a positive manner. One of her students said, "VTS allows me to express myself in a more artistic way." Another said, "it helps me connect my work to the real world."



Parade on Hammond Street by Allan Crite



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