

arts **IN**fusion

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Department of
Curriculum and Accountability

Arts Infusion Project Expands To Include Additional Schools

Six Schools Join The SCS Arts Infusion Project

When the doors opened for the first day of classes for the 2010-11 school year, six more schools began the year as part of the Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion Project.

Bartlett Elementary, Highland Oaks Elementary, Southwind Elementary, Dexter Middle, Mt. Pisgah Middle and Woodstock Middle are now AIM (Arts Infusion Member) schools. During the summer break, teaching teams from all six schools attended the 1st annual Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion

Workshop, and these teams will journey to Tupelo, MS for an arts infusion school visit. All ten schools will continue to receive professional development in the arts infusion approach to teaching.

Bartlett Elementary, a new Arts Infusion Project school, hosted the faculty from Rivercrest Elementary on August 4 for an arts infusion presentation. Bradley Foust, Art/Music Grant Facilitator, spoke to the teachers about the arts infusion grant, and the basic philosophy behind bringing the arts into the regular classroom.

Camela Blanchard, 5th grade teacher at Rivercrest Elementary, and Vernessa Lester, 4th grade teacher at Rivercrest Elementary, presented arts-infused lesson demonstrations. Ms. Lester's sample lesson utilized the lyrics from "The Beverly Hillbillies" theme song to infuse reading, social studies and science. Mrs. Blanchard's demonstration recounted her use of visual art and reading to create an engaging unit based on the book, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*.



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By The Numbers

SCS Arts Infusion Facts

Number of current AIM schools-

10

Number of AIM schools in
January 2011-

16

Number of years in current grant
period-

3

(an additional extension year may
be offered by the Department of
Education)

Number of school districts
awarded a PDAE grant in 2009-

5

(nearly 100 districts applied for
the grant)

Total amount of grant-

\$1,021,027

Beginning date of year 2 grant
budget period-

10/1/2010

Teaching Teams Attend 1st Annual SCS Arts Infusion Workshop



Arts Infusion teaching teams from ten Shelby County Schools attended the 1st annual SCS Arts Infusion Summer Workshop June 15-17 at Arlington Middle School. The three day workshop was led by Dr. Nan McDonald, Professor of Music at San Diego State University. Dr. McDonald is the author of *K-8 Handbook for Arts Integration: Purposeful Planning in the Arts*.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to the six new Arts Infusion Member (AIM) schools: Bartlett Elementary, Highland Oaks Elementary, Southwind Elementary, Dexter Middle, Mt. Pisgah Middle and Woodstock Middle. These schools received a day of introduction to the arts infusion approach to teaching, as well as demonstration of lessons that included hands-on activities. Days two and three included the four pilot schools (E.A. Harrold Elementary, Rivercrest Elementary, Millington Middle and Shadowlawn Middle) in arts infusion training.

The workshop also included sessions led by local teachers and teaching artists. Amanda Galbraith, Lead Art Teacher for Shelby County Schools, presented two informative mini-sessions focusing on visual arts and their connections to other subjects areas. Amelia Barton, teaching arts with Delta Arts, led participants in language arts lessons infused with music and visual art. The workshop ended on Thursday afternoon with teaching demonstrations and a question and answer session led by Jeni Chandler, Emilie English and Lindsay Brett, teachers from arts infused schools in Tupelo, MS.

Dr. McDonald will continue to consult with SCS on future arts infusion activities, and will return in January 2011 for a one day workshop. She is impressed with the work she has observed in the beginning stages of the arts infusion project: "Shelby County Schools is implementing an arts infusion program with the largest scope I have ever seen. This is an ambitious project!"

The artist is not a special kind of
man, but every man is a special
kind of artist.

- A.K. Coomaraswamy

It is the supreme art of the teacher
to awaken joy in creative
expression and knowledge.

-Albert Einstein

Arts Infusion Grant Renewed

At the end of each grant year, the U.S. Department of Education requires application for continuation of all PDAE grant programs. Continued funding is contingent on the Annual Performance Report (APR), which outlines grant activities, budget expenditures and plans for the upcoming budget year. The Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion Project has been awarded a continuation for its grant activities. The initial APR was submitted in June, and an update will be submitted in October.



**Opera Memphis Performance
at Rivercrest Elementary, May
14, 2010.**

Rivercrest Elementary Partners With Opera Memphis

While the May 14 visit from Opera Memphis resulted in the first ever live opera performance at Rivercrest Elementary, thanks to a new partnership with Opera Memphis, it will definitely not be the last.

Rivercrest Elementary has been chosen at Opera Memphis' "adopted" school for the 2010-11 school year. As a result of this designation, the school will receive two free performances, and one lucky student will be chosen for a scholarship to the opera's prestigious Summer Opera Conservatory.

Opera Memphis' 2011-11 season includes performances of *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, and a *Black Roots of Song* touring performance in February, featuring the music of Ella Fitzgerald. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.operamemphis.org>

PLC + AIM= Success!

What is a Professional Learning Community, and how is one created? According to Richard DuFour, a leading expert on all things PLC, one must "focus on learning rather than teaching, work collaboratively, and hold yourself accountable for results."

Many of the concepts used in building a PLC are also used in building a successful arts infusion program: a focus on learning, collaboration and accountability. While AIM teams will collaborate at their school sites, collaboration among AIM teams from different schools is also possible.

The SCS Arts Infusion wikispace provides an online platform for collaborating with teachers by editing and posting comments, uploading lesson plans and ideas and beginning discussions on the discussion board. To use the page, you must sign up and be approved by Bradley Foust, site moderator.

The Shelby County Schools Arts Infusion webpage also contains an area for discussion, and will be used in upcoming months for sharing lesson plans, videos and resources related to arts infusion. The site currently contains a links section and examples of arts infusion lessons from current SCS teachers.

Finally, sites such as Facebook and Twitter are widely used for collaboration and sharing among teachers across the globe. If you are interested in using Twitter for professional collaboration, please contact Bradley Foust, Art/Music Grant Facilitator.

**For more information,
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