



Newsletter | January 2024

Read how we have brought learning to life this month!

Minor, AL: New Partnership Begins at Minor Community School

In a new partnership in Jefferson County, Alabama, Regional Director Regi Strickland led the staff in a kickoff session to lay a foundation for arts integration. Next, Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell facilitated sessions over three days, providing professional learning, demonstration lessons, and a debrief/planning session. Teachers learned about statues and tableau, saw these strategies implemented with their content, and planned to implement them in upcoming lessons.

District leadership also supported and participated in various sessions over the three days. We are excited about this promising new partnership!



Barrow County, GA: Teachers of the Year VIP Program

Regional Director Shawn Williams and ArtsNOW Consultant Katy Betts had the opportunity to work with the Teachers of the Year in the Barrow County School System as part of the school system's VIP program. The group learned about the unique ArtsNOW - Barrow Partnership and the many resources and services ArtsNOW provides to the teachers and school system.

In addition to the informational session, teachers worked with Katy Betts to learn strategies to integrate visual arts into their content areas across all levels. Teacher wellness is a focus in the school system, and this time together allowed ArtsNOW to lead the teachers through a mindful arts integration activity. ArtsNOW continues to appreciate the district partnership with the school system.





ArtsNOW Collaborates with GA Tech CEISMV Savannah for STEAM Saturday

In partnership with GA Tech CEISMV Savannah, ArtsNOW Teacher Leaders Deannah Davis and Lindsey Rodriguez worked with students to design and build ice sculptures and create polar bear dances while studying the Arctic.

Student artists, engineers, and scientists used their STEAM journals to plan and reflect on their ice sculptures and dances. The ice sculptors experimented with salt, water, eye droppers, and watercolors to build their sculptures. Dancers learned how polar bears communicate by moving. Then, they worked in groups to create dances. There were many freezing hands, excitement, and fun during STEAM Saturday!



Savannah, GA: New Teachers at Virginia Heard Elementary

ArtsNOW was excited to be back at Virginia Heard Elementary to work with new teachers. President and CEO Pamela Walker and Regional Director Shawn Williams spent the day with teachers new to the school.

Teachers learned about the foundations of arts integration and why it is an effective and engaging way to meet student needs. Whether teachers were creating sculptures or sharing their ideas about states of matter through tableau, the smiles and engagement of the teachers were infectious. Teachers could see the connections between music, place value, and fractions and then used dance to address other math standards, such as geometry. The group left the sessions ready to integrate the arts!





Barrow, Cobb, Savannah: Movement for the Masses

Our SAIL (STEM + The Art of Integrated Learning) participants in Barrow, Cobb, and Savannah-Chatham counties explored the power of dance and movement.

Barrow and Cobb counties found inspiration through Site-Specific Choreography under the tutelage of ArtsNOW Consultant Melissa Joy. Teachers were challenged to create site-specific choreography incorporating a math or science topic while choosing a location that connects with their concept.

In Savannah, teachers explored the elements of dance with a focus on levels. ArtsNOW Consultant Julie Baggenstoss guided teachers through developing meaning through dance. In the classrooms, we saw dance and movement support understanding fractions, ecosystems, energy, and electricity.



Spartanburg, SC: Engaging in Visual Arts at New Prospect Elementary

ArtsNOW Visual Arts Consultant Cindy Riddle brought visual arts strategies to teachers and students at New Prospect Elementary. During professional learning sessions, teachers demonstrated the elements of art as they created masks. Teachers found many connections to their content and planned ways they could integrate this strategy into upcoming lessons.

First graders learned similarities and differences in their community over time and created a landscape collage to demonstrate. Fifth grade created character masks using shapes, lines, and color to portray characteristics and personality traits of favorite characters. Cindy also integrated visual arts into math and science in other grade levels.





Beaufort, SC: Creating Art at Lady's Island Middle School

ArtsNOW Visual Arts Consultant Jaffia Royes worked with staff and students to integrate visual arts vocabulary and standards with their English language arts standards. Teachers learned about Visual Thinking Routines and worked with a partner to complete a descriptive partner drawing. Students created comic strips using informational text, used modeling clay to represent figurative language, and oil pastels to show mood and theme from selected literature. Both teachers and students could see how visual arts help make deeper connections while learning their state standards.



Anderson, SC: Cultivating Creativity at Cannons

Visual Arts Consultant Cindy Riddle led teachers at Cannons Elementary to cultivate creativity with their students and within themselves. In Ms. Moore's third-grade class, Cindy connected the creation of wolf masks with ELA standards. The integrated standard included analyzing and providing evidence of how the author's choice of purpose and perspective shapes content, meaning, and style. Ms. Moore's class is studying how wolves are portrayed in fiction versus how they are in nonfiction.

After the demo lesson, Ms. Moore shared with peers how this was one of the best integrated lessons she has observed in her classroom thus far!



Newbury, SC: Sound All Around

Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White and Executive Vice President and COO Crystal Collins visited eight (8) schools in Newberry, SC, as part of the ABC partnership. Maribeth was able to integrate music standards with content standards in grades K-5. Students learned about rhythmic speech, soundscaping, writing original lyrics, music notation, and steady beat while they explored fables, fractions, addition to 20, syllables, parts of speech, the Revolutionary War, and greater than, less than, and equal. It was great visiting eight of the elementary schools in Newberry. This has led to a new partnership with Newberry Middle School and Newberry High School that begins this month!



ArtsNOW Aloha

President and CEO Pamela Walker and Executive Vice President and COO Crystal Collins shared about the REALAI federal grant at the Hawaii International Conference on Education. They took books and the corresponding Creativity Task Cards developed during this year of the grant. They discussed the importance of culturally relevant materials in school libraries. Pam and Crystal were able to share important updates regarding the progress of the grants and key findings from the annual performance period. Their session was well-attended, and participants asked questions and had an open dialogue about the impact of arts integration on literacy.



Did someone forward you this email? You deserve your own copy. [Click here to sign up for our newsletter.](#) You can also share this newsletter with an educator, administrator, or donor who should know about ArtsNOW!



10 Glenlake Parkway, Suite 130, Atlanta, GA 30328

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).