Newsletter | September 2024 Read how ArtsNOW brought learning to life this month!











Under the tutelage of ArtsNOW Consultant Susie Purcell, teachers and students at Garrett Elementary explored their inner thespian through drama-integrated activities. Teachers enjoyed quick go-to activators to help students strengthen focus and articulation skills. Then during our demonstration days, students were engaged in the art of tableau as they learned about moon phases, weather, Native American history, and ELA topics.









Colleton County, SC: Students Shine in Storytelling

Stories came to life as students used theatre skills to immerse themselves in the books they were reading. Cottageville, Northside, and Forest Hills Elementary students utilized their bodies and voices to become the story's characters! They stretched their mind muscles as they created voices and movements for people, animals, and inanimate objects in their stories. Teachers and students smiled as they worked together to retell stories, creating a tableau to show the stories' beginning, middle, and end.









Winder, GA: Arts Integration at The Center for Innovative Teaching

ArtsNOW began its eighth year of the Professional Learning Residency at the Center for Innovative Teaching (CFIT) in the Barrow County School System (BCSS). Yargo, Auburn, County Line, Kennedy, and Holsenbeck Elementary School teachers are participating in a three-year residency program. To date, 30 teachers have completed the residency. Teachers and students visit CFIT six times each semester to engage in arts integration lessons led by ArtsNOW Consultants Shannon Green, Susie Spear Purcell, and Keighly Brown. Teachers then bring these strategies back to their schools to share with colleagues and students.









Savannah, GA: Beats of Innovation

In an exciting collaboration with Pulaski K-8, ArtsNOW Consultant Rue Lee-Holmes introduced students and teachers to music through body percussion and found sounds. This hands-on experience engaged students and gave teachers valuable insights during professional learning sessions. They explored creative ways to integrate music with their curriculum, fostering a dynamic learning environment. Students eagerly created music while deepening their understanding of various subjects. This innovative approach enriched the educational experience and highlighted the transformative power of the arts in the classroom.









Upstate, SC: Integrating All Art Forms in the Upstate

Through funding from Arts Grow SC, ArtsNOW visited schools in Anderson and Spartanburg counties. Dance Consultant Simone Liberty led second-grade students at New Prospect Elementary in creating movements representing characters in a story. At Centerville Elementary, Simone led staff in a dance strategy called Dead Fish, using locomotor movements and pathways to explore content vocabulary. At Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary, kindergarteners played instruments and identified the shapes of their

instruments with Music Consultant Rue Lee-Holmes. Visual Arts Consultant Shannon Green worked with Cannons and Inman Elementary Schools to use shapes, place value, and narrative writing with visual literacy.









Savannah, GA: Dynamic Theatre at Hesse K-8

ArtsNOW Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell encouraged students to "put learning in our bodies" with dynamic theatre. This immersive approach involved students physically embodying their characters and scenarios, making the learning process engaging and memorable. Students enhanced their understanding of theatrical concepts by integrating movement and physical expression into their drama activities while developing a deeper connection to content standards. This active participation fostered creativity, collaboration, and social-emotional learning, allowing students to experience the power of drama in a vibrant, hands-on way.









Ellenwood, GA: I've Got the Rhythm in Me!

ArtsNOW Music Consultant Maribeth Yoder-White inspired teachers and students at East Clayton Elementary to find rhythm in their reading! Teachers kicked off their professional learning with rhythmic sounds, a strategy that can be used with student vocabulary and key concepts. Students also listened to find rhyming words, then clapped and stomped to the rhythm of poetry. Older students recited and remembered vocabulary words using rhythmic speech and body percussion.













Midlands, SC: Theatre, Dance, and Visual Arts - Oh My!

Several ArtsNOW Consultants worked with partner schools in the Midlands of South Carolina this month as part of our partnership with Arts Grow SC. Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell shared improvisation strategies with Saluda River Academy for the Arts and East Alken School of the Arts. Third graders embodied the roles of magnet poles as they repelled and attracted. At Oakwood-Windsor Elementary, Dance Consultant Melissa Joy integrated dance into the classroom while aligning with content standards. Visual Arts Consultant Katy Betts engaged teachers and students from both traditional and Montessori classrooms at Logan Elementary with visual thinking strategies.









Roswell, GA: It's Grow Time at Vickery Mill

ArtsNOW Consultant Katy Betts and Regional Director Shawn Williams began a professional learning series at Vickery Mill Elementary in Fulton County. Students and teachers are using arts integration to increase engagement and student achievement in literacy. In this three-day model, teachers engaged in visual arts integration strategies and planned for upcoming lessons. Students created artwork to demonstrate their understanding of the setting, main idea, supporting details, and symbolism.









Atlanta, GA: Blending Arts and Academics

In a new partnership with Usher-Collier Elementary, ArtsNOW Visual Arts Consultant Jaffia Royes engaged teachers and students in creating their own art. Jaffia skillfully wove content and art standards, achieving authentic integration in the classroom. This hands-on approach not only sparked creativity among students but also provided teachers with innovative strategies to blend art with core subjects. The collaboration fostered a dynamic learning environment where students could explore their artistic talents while reinforcing their academic knowledge, demonstrating the powerful impact of integrated arts education.









Register: Demonstration of Learning Days

Registration is now open for ArtsNOW Demonstration of Learning Days for 2024-2025.

Visit ArtsNOW Leadership Schools and see arts-integrated lessons in action during one of our eight dates to showcase different types of schools in Georgia and South Carolina.

Register Now

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