



Newsletter | March 2025

We bring learning to life every month!



### Sandy Springs, GA: **Jumping Off The Page**

At **Ison Springs Elementary**, creativity and curriculum moved hand in hand as students explored classroom content through imagination and expression. In fifth grade, students stepped into character as animal species debating environmental harm, using movement and dialogue to explore cause and effect. Fourth graders followed Grandpa's journey during the first moonwalk, tracing how his character changed along the way. First graders acted out storybook roles, while kindergarteners used the Color Monster to sort and express emotions. Throughout the school, students brought learning to life with body, voice, and play—turning classrooms into joyful spaces of discovery.



### Upstate, SC: **Visual Art and Theatre Strategies Engage Students**

At **New Prospect Elementary**, kindergarteners worked with Visual Arts Consultant Stephanie Lancaster to create maps using geometric shapes to identify community landmarks. At **Holly Springs-Motlow Elementary**, second graders explored Paul Klee's artwork with Consultant Katy Betts and used the See, Think, Wonder strategy before "purchasing" supplies to create original pieces. At **Calhoun Academy of the Arts**, Theatre Consultant Susie Spear Purcell guided kindergarteners in creating tableau to represent shapes and story scenes. These integrated lessons encouraged collaboration, creativity, and real-world connections.





### Savannah, GA: Creativity Meets Conservation

In collaboration with **Georgia Tech CEISM Savannah**, Teacher Leader Kayoko Spivey led a STEAM camp focused on coral reefs. Students learned about the vital role reefs play in our ecosystem and why preservation matters. Using paper, neon oil pastels, paint, and 3D pens, they created vibrant reef art while exploring techniques that added depth and dimension. This hands-on experience combined creativity with environmental learning, encouraging students to think critically about both art and nature.



### Newberry, SC: Integrating Across All Levels, Elementary Through High School

At **Newberry Middle School**, Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes helped students explore planetary orbits using music elements like steady beat and dynamics. At **Newberry High School**, students identified finance vocabulary in pop songs, wrote lyrics to explain concepts, and performed their work. At **Boundary Street** and **Reuben Elementary**, Dance Consultant Simone Liberty introduced the "magic machine" strategy, with students using non-locomotor movements to show process steps. These integrated activities blended music, movement, and academic content to deepen engagement and understanding.



### Kingtree, SC: Springing Into Integration

ArtsNOW launched a partnership with **Kingtree Middle Magnet School of the Arts**, integrating theatre and dance into learning. With Consultant Susie Spear Purcell, participants created tableau to illustrate fractions, ratios, and the Harlem Renaissance. Consultant Simone Liberty led choreography to represent linear and non-linear equations and demonstrate evidence for an author's claim through dance battles. Smiles filled the room as collaboration and creativity energized classroom content.





### Roswell, GA: Reading With Rhythm

At Vickery Mill Elementary, students were on their feet with Music Consultant Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White, keeping steady beats and moving with rhythm. Fourth graders read poetry while identifying rhyme schemes. Second and fifth-graders used eight-count beats in fables. Kindergarteners created their own rhythmic compositions, discovering how word order changes the rhythm. Across all grades, students brought stories to life with soundscapes, making reading more engaging and expressive.



### Hilton Head, SC: When REALAI Met SAIL

ArtsNOW Leadership facilitated the annual retreat for principals leading schools in the STEM + Art of Integrated Learning (SAIL) and Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts Integration (REALAI) grants. Principal teams from across the two federal grants shared implementation successes, reviewed outcomes, and explored plans for sustaining the work. They also collaborated with grant partners and engaged in creative activities to bring back to their schools. ArtsNOW's Shenley Rountree led a session on telling school success stories, and Dr. Melinda Mollett shared data insights for each school. SAIL principals showed interest in expanding literacy in STEAM, while REALAI principals are exploring STEM connections. The retreat provided a valuable opportunity for grant dissemination and to build on plans for sustaining the work!





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### Moncks Corner, SC: Learning is Alive with the Sounds of Music Integration

At H.E. Bonner Elementary, Music Consultants Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes and Dr. Maribeth Yoder-White integrated music into ELA, math, and science. Third graders created chants to explain the author's purpose. Kindergarteners explored patterns using voices, bodies, and instruments, while first graders interpreted music through art during "Listen and Draw." Dr. Yoder-White also taught music vocabulary like "forte" and "piano," using rhythmic speech and soundscapes to reinforce concepts such as fractions, counting, and similes. These creative lessons helped deepen student learning through music.



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### Hephzibah, GA: A Visual Art and Science Installation

At Hephzibah Elementary, fifth graders explored physical and chemical changes through a visual arts project with ArtsNOW Consultant Tandy Krajec. Students designed patterns on coffee filters and fabric using color, line, and shape. By adding water and rubbing alcohol, they observed changes in the materials. The next day, they altered their artwork through cutting, folding, and rolling, then collaborated to create suspended sculptures now on display for the school to enjoy.



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### Mableton, GA: Demonstration of Learning


At Mableton Elementary School, more than 40 guests from Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee attended a Demonstration of Learning Day. Visitors observed engaging, arts-integrated lessons created and led by classroom teachers. Each lesson showcased a different art form, with no two alike. The halls were filled with process boards featuring student work, reflections, and learning evidence. High attendance and energy reflected the school's

enthusiasm. As a SAIL grant site and four-year ArtsNOW partner, Mableton continues to shine as a leader in arts integration.



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