



Newsletter | January 2026

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WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS CAREER

175+

### Riverdale, GA: Reigniting the Passion

Teachers and students at West Clayton Elementary explored theatre strategies that strengthened arts integration and creative confidence. Theatre Consultant Susie Purcell guided professional learning and classroom demonstrations where grades three through five turned academic content into characters. Students created specific voices, personality traits, and movements to represent landform changes, numerators and denominators, and properties of light. Younger students retold stories through Story Whoosh, using imagination to sequence meaning. Across grade levels, theatre helped students embody content, think deeply, and communicate understanding with clarity.



### Clay, AL: Content Connections Dance

At Bryant Park Elementary, students explored academic content through dance by responding, creating, and connecting movement to meaning. Dance Consultant Melissa Joy guided students as they choreographed dances to spoken word poetry, then viewed and analyzed choreography for theme and intent. Teachers reviewed content standards and identified dance standards to support future lesson planning. Dance strengthened collaboration, communication, and critical thinking while helping students deepen understanding across content areas.





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### Georgetown, SC: **Moving Minds Dance**

Movement energized learning at **Carvers Bay Middle School** as students explored vocabulary, math, and storytelling through dance. Dance Consultant Simone Liberty used photos and videos to spark discussion and reflection, then guided students to build choreography using mind mapping and descriptive details to shape narrative structure. In math, students worked collaboratively to find the area of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes using elastic bands. Dance made learning active while strengthening analysis, collaboration, and student voice.



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### Roswell, GA: **Engaging Hands and Minds**

Students across grade levels at **Vickery Mill Elementary** explored learning through visual arts integration. Kindergarten, second, and third grade students retold fiction, adding details and sequencing events in order. First graders practiced alliteration by creating collages of words that matched the first letter of their name. Fourth graders collaborated to build the tallest tower from note cards using the engineering design process. Fifth graders used word art to analyze WWII figures.



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### Georgetown, SC: **Sound Sparks Learning**

Music filled the halls at **Brown's Ferry Elementary** as students explored how sound communicates meaning. Music Consultant Dr. Rue Lee-Holmes guided students in listening closely to musical elements such as tempo, dynamics, and timbre, then connecting those observations to classroom content. Students identified themes, discussed how sound conveys ideas, and explained their thinking using evidence from what they heard. This experience strengthened careful listening, academic language, and confident student voice through

music.



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### Savannah, GA: Bodies in Motion, Minds Engaged

Students at **Heard Elementary** explored academic concepts through movement as dance supported learning across grade levels. Dance Consultant Angela Gallo guided lessons that connected science vocabulary like energy and force to purposeful motion. Students practiced math skills such as telling time through structured movement patterns. In ELA and social studies, students explored characters and key traits using gesture and expression. Dance helped students make abstract ideas concrete while strengthening engagement and focus.



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### Atlanta, GA: Healing Centered Arts

Students engaged in healing-centered arts integration at **Hillside Conant and Youth Villages**. Music Consultant Lyn Koonce created space for students to express knowledge, interests, and feelings through sound and rhythm. Sessions emphasized confidence, collaboration, and communication while honoring student voice. Supported through the Responsive Arts in School Education (RAISE) grant and a partnership with National Young Audiences Arts for Learning, this work shows how arts integration can nurture growth in meaningful ways.





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### Upstate, SC: Creativity Sparks Learning

Arts integration energized classrooms across Upstate South Carolina schools through theatre, music, and dance. At **Homeland Park Primary**, teachers explored theatre strategies such as Ten Second Object, pantomime, and Story Whoosh for upcoming lessons. At **Cannons Elementary**, music strategies used chanting, steady beat, and body percussion to support analysis and structure. At **Sue Cleveland Elementary**, students connected choreography to creative writing and place value. These moments show how arts integration strengthens teaching and learning across settings.



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### Savannah, GA: Hands-On Art

Middle school students at **Hesse K-8** collaborated on visual arts projects that connected creativity to academic learning. Visual Arts Consultant **Stephanie Lancaster** guided students as they explored stained glass, propaganda posters, and abstract art while connecting ideas to science and social studies. Students investigated sound waves, animal adaptations, and topography map features, then discussed choices and problem-solved in groups. Visual arts integration strengthened observation, teamwork, and critical thinking across disciplines.



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### Atlanta, GA: Rhythm of Learning

Teachers and students at **M. Agnes Jones Elementary School** explored rhythm as a tool for collaboration and comprehension. Music Consultant **Lyn Koonce** guided professional learning and demonstration lessons using body and vocal percussion to establish a steady beat. Students practiced rhythmic speech and beat patterns, then transferred that structure to support comprehension and retention of academic content. Rhythm supported shared focus, creative engagement, and stronger learning routines across classrooms.



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