



Newsletter | August 2021

Read how we have brought learning to life this month!

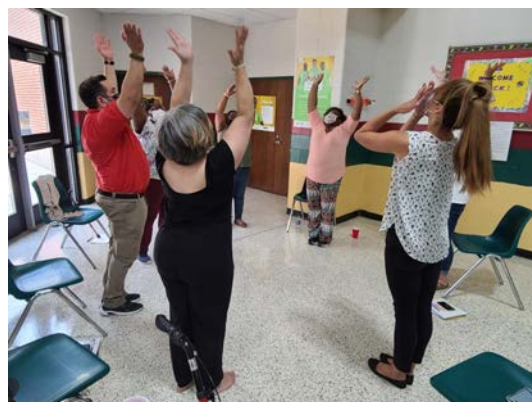
Welcome Back to School: A Message from Our President and CEO

Who would have thought we would still be making decisions about schooling and the impact of Covid this school year? As we have begun making plans with multiple schools and school districts for 2021-2022, it has become apparent that flexibility is key! There have already been modifications to school plans and delivery of services, but what is apparent, is that the arts are still critical to the success of our partner schools because we are moving ahead at a rapid pace. ArtsNOW does not envy the decision making process that many of you are going through, but do know that we remain steadfast in our support for you, your schools, the students, and communities. Knowing that with ever evolving protocols, we all must remain fluid and flexible, and we will always do what is in the best interest of students. Last year, ArtsNOW saw more growth than ever because schools and districts understood the necessity of keeping students actively engaged. We all pivoted, not knowing what the future held. What we do know is that our partnerships remained strong because we all came together to do what is best for kids! Thank you for ALWAYS making the arts a priority, for understanding the needs of students, and for believing in us. Together, we will get through the times ahead and know that the ArtsNOW team is here to support our partnerships with fidelity, strength, and courage. We appreciate each and every one of you. Here's to a

2021-2022 that we can all be proud of, and one in which we can all ensure the arts remain the foundation for social, emotional, and academic success. Yours truly, Pam

ArtsNOW's Partnership with Richmond County: **Hephzibah Elementary School and Hephzibah Middle School**

Thanks to the continued support from the Chestnut Family Foundation, ArtsNOW was able to work with teachers and administrators from Hephzibah Elementary School (HES) and Hephzibah Middle School (HMS) during pre-planning at the beginning of the month. At HES, teachers rotated through four art forms (visual arts, music, theater, and dance) to learn integration strategies and to plan for the upcoming school year. We were able to provide lunch for the staff, thanks to the generous funding from the donors, and it was such a great day of collaboration and learning with peers. At HMS, we worked with a core teacher leader team and provided strategies for integration in each of the art forms. ArtsNOW is so proud of our partnerships in Hephzibah and we are excited about the future dates we are scheduled to work at HES, HMS, Goshen Elementary School, and Willis Foreman Elementary School. Being back in person (following CDC guidelines) invigorated us all and we are all ready for next steps in Richmond County!





Florence School District 3's Project Based Learning (PBL)

Shannon Green, Pamela Walker, and Crystal Collins worked with teachers and administrators from J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts and Science Magnet School and Olanta Creative Arts and Science Magnet School to develop project based units for the upcoming school year. We spent three (3) days reviewing the necessary components of PBL and participated in hands-on problem based design challenges. These challenges helped set the stage for building their STEM units with quality arts integration (STEAM) so that a great foundation was provided for the upcoming school year. We will be back in FSD3 this year helping to support both schools with more arts integration through professional learning and student demonstration lessons.





Ford Elementary School: Cobb County School District

ArtsNOW has begun a new partnership with Ford Elementary School, where Debbie Broadnax is now principal. We are excited to be working with Ford Elementary to add, and strengthen, the arts into their STEM curriculum. Pamela Walker met with each grade level in order to help identify what the "A" adds to STEAM and engaged in a hands-on activity to explore "relationships" with a collaborative sculpture activator. This helped highlight the importance of 21st Century Competencies and lay the foundation for the partnership between Ford Elementary and ArtsNOW.

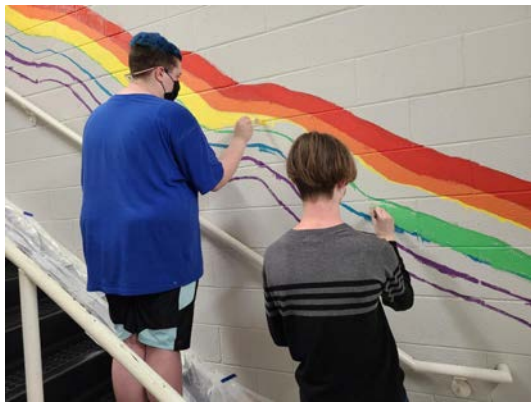




Hillside Conant Student Residency in Atlanta Public Schools

Students at Hillside collaborated, planned, and designed a visual arts installation for their stairwell. Each student worked independently to create their design challenge, and then collectively, ArtsNOW consultant, Shannon Green, included the ideas in a single collaborative design. The students decided they wanted to provide an inclusive, positive, and inviting space for all students, staff, community, and visitors to enjoy. We are all so proud of the students at Hillside for their risk taking, their willingness to collaborate with peers, and the pride they took in their artistic talent! While the installation is just in the beginning stage, we wanted to share their progress and we will highlight the final installation once it is complete in September.





Why ArtsNOW?

- Integrated learning is powerful learning.
- For over 20 years, ArtsNOW has been leading the way in reshaping pre-K–12 education by integrating the arts with all core subjects.
- We're setting the stage to encourage teacher confidence and improve student engagement for greater academic and personal achievement.
- Teachers are champions and students are heroes.
- We're not just teaching. ***We bring learning to life.***



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