



# ALT TA Arkansas

## Learning Through The Arts

A creative approach to arts-integrated learning.

PARTNERS IN ARTS AND EDUCATION • November 2014

### NEW PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS EXCITE KIDS!

ALT TA has expanded programming for the 2014-2015 school year and has initiated their season with three new Teaching Artists and programs. Pam Harshfield, Instructional Facilitator at Fountain Lake Elementary, said, "The expressions on the children's faces were what impressed me. The students were singing about what they were learning in class. They were so very excited and engaged with the artist! The whole program is awesome." ALT TA has designed Student Journals for each student and a Lesson Planning Guide for the teacher to facilitate their planning.

Eleven unique arts programs have been conducted, in five school districts in Garland County, reaching over 1900 children. Twenty additional programs are on the drawing board and will be available this year for Kindergarten through the 7th grade. Approximately 400 sessions will be conducted this year, locally, and be offered to other school districts in Central Arkansas.

*Three new programs debuted in October:*

**Grade 1 – Animal Tales from Africa:** Zinse Agginie, African storyteller and drummer, introduces students to animals of Africa, as part of their unit on The Amazing Animal World. He uses a story about Ananzi, The Spider, a folk story of the Ashanti people in Ghana. Each child is introduced to the African drum and Mr. Agginie teaches them rhythms, making patterns and playing together, as well as listening to the rhythms of each other.



**Grade 2 – Singing Cowboys:** Shannon Wurst, singer and master songwriter, reads the tall tale Pecos Bill to the students as part of their unit on The Wild West. She engages them in singing cowboy

songs and introduces them to the geography of the West through the song, The Old Chisolm Trail. Each class creates and performs their own wild west story and song.



**Grade 3 – Sea Shanties:** Chelsye Ginn, actress and singer, appears as a 'piratess' as part of the classroom unit, Inspired By the Sea. Students learn about the songs of the seafarers in the golden age of pirating, what inspired them to be pirates, about the purpose of lighthouses and basic aspects of their lives. They sing songs and act out the stories about pirates, mermaids and different kinds of fish.



## MISSION AND APPROACH

The mission of ALTTA is to improve student achievement by integrating cultural arts into the educational experience in order to ignite students' interest in learning. The approach is to create curriculum-based arts programs, consisting of workshops, residencies and other arts experiences that introduce students to the arts while energizing the classroom lessons.

## WHY THIS WORKS

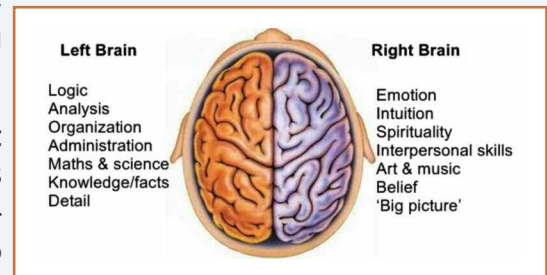
Incorporating the arts into classroom learning has a positive effect on children's interest in learning, as has been established in many studies. Traditional teaching approaches do not always reach students who are naturally attracted to visual and oral stimuli.

Using the arts at first attracts their attention because something different is happening. This stimulation activates their 'right brain' which develops their creativeness and willingness to think more inventively. Traditional approaches often engage primarily the 'left brain' which is verbal, analytical, logical, rational and linear.

The arts have a unique capacity for developing the right brain. This works whether there is arts programming in the classroom or a student is engaged in learning to master an instrument. When there are stronger connections between the left and right brain, students are able to engage in creative problem solving and analysis.

Tasha Boozer, literacy specialist at Langston E.T.A. Magnet in Hot Springs said, "Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is a remarkable non-profit organization. Their dynamic activities, along with explicit lesson plans, are designed to spark interest from all variety of learners."

Charity Chapin, 2nd grade teacher at Fountain Lake, said that she was "amazed at the words the students wouldn't normally use." She had one student who never participated in class, suddenly responding to the artist. The next day, he brought a song he wrote and wanted to perform it for the class.



## ALTTA RECEIVES MAJOR CHALLENGE GRANT!

The Arkansas Arts Council funded two ALTTA grant requests that launched curriculum development for arts-integrated initiatives and supported ALTTA programming in the schools. These grants totaled over \$27,000, and challenges ALTTA to match those funds.

The curriculum grant supported the development of materials for:

- Residencies and workshops for ALTTA
- Children's Concert of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra
- ArtsPartners In-classroom String Quartet workshops (ASO)

The materials for the latter two are disseminated throughout the state where ArtsPartners and the Children's Concert are performed.

The residency grant provided partial support for ALTTA's in-classroom residencies, making them more affordable to the schools.

## 2013 - 2014 FRIENDS

Arkansas Arts Council  
Tom and Jean Bryant  
Al and Betty Kay Carney  
Entergy  
Hot Springs Giving Circle  
HS/HSV Symphony Guild

Jane Howard Foundation  
(Melanie Masino)  
KYE-YAC Foundation  
Morris Foundation  
(Dorothy Morris)  
National Endowment for the Arts

Wilbur and Martha Smither  
Vandergrift Family Endowment  
Elisabeth Wagner Foundation  
Craig and Carol Welle  
Windgate Foundation  
Youth Advisory Council (YAC)

### WHAT DO FRIENDS MEAN TO THE PROGRAM?

*Arkansas Learning Through The Arts* offers the programs for the schools at affordable rates. The production costs include the artists' expenses (at the Arkansas Arts Council rates for their Teaching Artist Roster), development and printing of Student Journals and teachers' Lesson Planning Guides, related books and all the logistics related to planning and delivering the workshops. Without external funding, schools have to shoulder the entire expense. Most can manage a couple of workshops, but not necessarily for all grade levels. Some schools have government funding that helps, but others do not qualify because of the student profile.

The target for scheduling programming is to have two programs a year, per grade level. Depending on whether the arts program is 2, 3 or 4 sessions (50 minutes), the cost could vary from \$200 to \$350 per classroom session, generally for 25 students. The target for ALTTA is to provide some form of external funding that can defray at least half the cost.

**Here is an example of what your support can provide for students (if schools pay half the cost):**

<i>Picasso</i>	\$100	Provides a classroom 2 sessions of an arts program	25 students
<i>Joplin</i>	\$300	Provides 3 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	75 students
<i>O'Keefe</i>	\$500	Provides 5 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	125 students
<i>Beethoven</i>	\$1,000	Provides 10 classrooms 2 sessions of arts programs	250 students
<i>Shakespeare</i>	\$3,000	Provides 30 classrooms 2 sessions of arts program	750 students

Schools have been enthusiastic about the programs and are eager to schedule as many programs as they can afford. They have been inventive in search of available funding within their budgets, but they need your support.

Craig Welle and Martha Smither accept a check for ALTTA from Mark Hunt, Entergy.



**PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND  
AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR  
ALTERNATIVES FOR GIVING  
PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR!**

*Arkansas LearningThrough The Arts*  
is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.





**Arkansas  
Learning Through the Arts**  
4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315  
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, 71909



**BECOME A FRIEND of Arkansas Learning Through the Arts AND SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**I want to be a friend at the following level:**

<i>Individual</i> \$15 _____	<i>Picasso</i> \$100 _____	<i>Beethoven</i> \$1000 _____
<i>Family</i> \$25 _____	<i>Joplin</i> \$300 _____	<i>Shakespeare</i> \$3,000 _____
<i>Van Gogh</i> \$50 _____	<i>O'Keefe</i> \$500 _____	<i>Other</i> \$ _____

**Contact me about Volunteering!** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**Arkansas Learning Through the Arts, 4501 N. HWY 7, SUITE 8, #315, HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, 71909**

Your membership is entirely tax deductible.

ALTTA is designated as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS regulations.

**ALTTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATION**

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**PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS**

Cutter Morning Star Elementary  
Fountain Lake  
Middle & Elementary Schools  
Hot Springs School District:  
Oaklawn Arts Magnet  
Langston Magnet  
Park Magnet  
Intermediate  
Jessieville  
Elementary School  
Lake Hamilton  
Elementary School

