



ARKANSAS LEARNING *through the* ARTS



affiliated with the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network

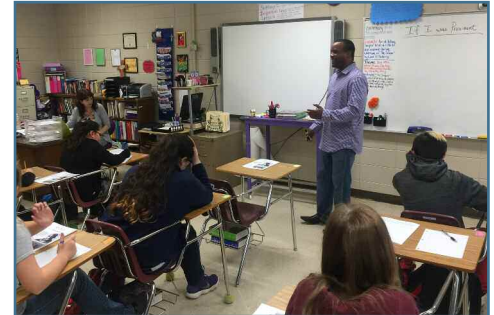
PARTNERS IN ARTS
AND EDUCATION

November 2018

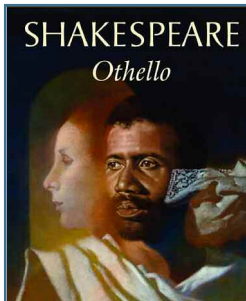
PROGRAMS EXTENDED TO HIGHER GRADE LEVELS

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts (ALTTA) delivers high quality education experiences to classrooms in Arkansas schools by providing engaging experiences that lead to deeper learning opportunities. Although most programs are for grades K – 6, ALTTA responded to a special request by Mountain Pine for upper grade levels. What evolved is a poetry residency for 8th graders and a Shakespeare unit for 10th graders.

Captivating 8th graders' attention is Teaching Artist, Jermaine McClure, who leads the students in a unit called **Poems Reflect Life**. Langston Hughes' poetry is read and performed. They learn about his life and what motivated him to write. They view a different culture by learning how to construct a Japanese Haiku poem. They prepare



and perform their own Haiku poems, most often reflective of their thoughts and lives. Teacher April McGee said that 'Some of the students...rarely participate...but they did for him.'



Artist McClure introduces Mountain Pine 10th graders to the complexities of **Othello** by creating a scene which they perform.

This brings alive what they are studying in the classroom. Students are more eager to learn when they can participate. Principal Toby Crosby said 'Visits by...these artists give students ...an opportunity to experience things they don't normally get to see.'



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW TEACHING ARTIST CHANA CAYLOR



Arkansas Learning Through The Arts introduces a new Teaching Artist to the roster this fall. Well-known in Central Arkansas as an entertainer, singer and songwriter, Chana Caylor understands the importance of directing children's creative and musical energy from an early age. She incorporates the principles of songwriting to complement children's literacy development by writing a story to songs featuring sequential events. Students use these skills as they express themselves collaboratively to create a song which they perform together.

At left, Artist Caylor works with 2nd graders at Fountain Lake on a **Singing Cowboys** unit featuring the tall tale of Pecos Bill. Students learn about life on the Western frontier as well as how to create their own song about the West.

Additionally, she has led units on **Singing Stories** for kindergarteners at Cutter Morning Star and **America Sings** for several grade levels at Barton-Lexa and Palestine-Wheatley schools in the Delta.

REPORT CARD FOR THE FALL:

- Over 450 one-hour sessions in the 1st semester • So far, 400+ sessions scheduled for the 2nd semester
- Reaching 18 schools in Garland, Pope, Saline, St. Francis and Phillips counties
- Nine teaching artists representing poetry, visual arts, dance, Native American storytelling and flute playing, African storytelling and drumming, theater and creative writing.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

What is social emotional learning (SEL)? The process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to:

- understand and manage emotions,
- set and achieve positive goals,
- feel and show empathy for others,
- establish and maintain positive relations and
- make positive decisions

Per Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) 2018



Why are the arts important to social emotional learning?

“What we learn through the arts is that - because it’s so centered in self-expression and student voice - it’s a very motivating modality through which young people can learn. And because there’s often no right answer in the arts, it really promotes creative, critical and process-oriented thinking - the types of transferable twenty-first-century skills that young people need to have stepping forward.” By Elizabeth Whitford, Executive Director of Arts Corps in Seattle

Hot Springs area artist, Gary Simmons, added this view:

“The importance of art education and art activities is that they combine the critical and investigative thinking processes with the expressive and personal identifying functions of the personality. This duality involves the entire personality rather than just an isolated interest. The creative process is looking in as well as out. It uses those discoveries in both places as a launch to one’s own worldview and participation in life.”

NEW PRE-K PROGRAMMING at Cutter Morning Star Elementary



WHY DO MANY CONSIDER QUALITY PRE-K PROGRAMS THE MOST IMPORTANT YEAR OF SCHOOL?

Research suggests that preschool graduates enjoy both short-term and long-term benefits, including improved academic and school readiness, higher graduation rates and lower incarceration rates.

Skills that the Pre-K youngster can learn:

- How to be learners
- Dealing with difficult emotions
- How to interact positively with classmates

What tools are useful to help them achieve those skills:

- Songs and routines teach self-regulation
- Pictures show steps in a process
- Guided play-acting develops relationships and roles

“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” - Mr. Rogers

WELCOME TO NEW SCHOOLS LAKE HAMILTON INTERMEDIATE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, WEST HELENA BARTON HIGH SCHOOL PALESTINE-WHEATLEY ELEMENTARY

Statistics for Early Childhood Learning For Arkansas

- 28% of 3 year and 42% of 4 year olds are enrolled in a public preschool setting, e.g. Headstart.
- Average annual costs at a child care center is \$11,131, which is 22% of the median income for families with children.
- For MOST low-income families, the average cost of child care would constitute the majority of household income.

United States

- 71% of mothers work outside the home with their children having some form of childcare.

Childcare workers median pay: \$20,320

Entry level education: high school diploma

Average age of female worker: 36



Representative Les Warren extols the generosity of Dorothy Morris and her commitment to give all children more life opportunities.

Honoring Dorothy Morris!

At an October Fundraising event at the Whittington Gallery, the Board of Arkansas Learning Through The Arts honored Founding Board Member, Dorothy Morris, for her inspiration and support. Since its inception, Dorothy has been keenly interested in the organization's growth and success. She has always been motivated to improve the lives of Arkansas' children!

The Board also welcomed new members to the Leadership Advisory Council of Hot Springs. This group includes Susan Aldrich, Carla Mouton, Dorothy Morris, Don Munro, Kerry Lockwood Owen, Tiffany Rogers, Les Warren and Robert and Mary Zunick. Their role is to broaden community support that enables ALTTA to keep the cost of workshops at an affordable rate to schools.



Dr. Sarah Oatsvall, principal, Hot Springs Intermediate, tells attendees the importance of a student's growth mindset in learning.

OF SPECIAL NOTE!

Two Anonymous Donors have challenged Arkansas Learning Through The Arts to raise at least \$20,000 from individuals and they will match with funds up to that amount. We are so far only at 14% of that goal and are hopeful that the year-end giving campaign and March letter solicitation will let us reach the goal.

PLEASE HELP MAKE THE MATCH!

YOU CAN ENCOURAGE ARKANSAS' YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN LEARNING!

Want to build a better world, but not sure how? Art helps children develop on many fundamental levels, ranging from increased confidence, focus, motor-skills and of course to inspire creativity. YOU can encourage our youth to engage in art by ensuring our programs continue through individual donations.

Arkansas Learning Through the Arts (ALTTA) is a 501(c)(3) organization that contracts with professional artists to complete a residency in public and private schools within central Arkansas. You can become a FRIEND by donating to ALTTA.

Your contribution matters!



| | | |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| Picasso |\$100 |Reaches 25 students (1 session) |
| Joplin |\$300 |Reaches 75 students (3 sessions) |
| O'Keefe |\$500 |Reaches 125 students (3 sessions) |
| Beethoven |\$1,000 |Reaches 250 students (3 sessions) |
| Shakespeare | .. \$3,000 |Reaches 750 students (3 session) |



We invite you to give to Arkansas Learning Through the Arts by visiting our website www.altta.org and selecting "Donate." By contributing to ALLTA, art becomes more affordable for schools, when combined with grants and other donations.

Thank you for making Arkansas a better place by investing in our children.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND

AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR ALTERNATIVES FOR GIVING PRIOR TO THE END OF THE YEAR!

Arkansas Learning Through The Arts is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

To become a volunteer, please contact Martha Smither (501-922-2743) or Craig Welle (214-676-0222)

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:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Individual \$15 _____ | Family \$25 _____ | Van Gogh \$50 _____ | Picasso \$100 _____ |
| Joplin \$300 _____ | O'Keeffe \$500 _____ | Beethoven \$1000 _____ | Shakespeare \$3000 _____ |
| Michelangelo \$5,000 _____ | Other \$ _____ | | |

Contact me about Volunteering! _____

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

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

Your membership is entirely tax deductible.

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



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HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE, AR 71909

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