

If you cannot view this e-mail, [click here](#)



February 2009

Quick Links

- [About A+](#)
- [A+ Calendar](#)
- [A+ Resources and Links](#)
- [Contact A+](#)
- [A+ Featured School](#)



Welcome to Oklahoma A+ Schools ... Oklahoma's only research-based, whole school reform model with creativity in its mission.

Oklahoma A+ Schools embraces and extends the meaning of network. Locally, schools and teachers across the state exchange ideas through shared professional development opportunities. Nationally, OK A+ Schools connects to partnerships offering experiential learning for teachers, principals and students. Examples include the Oklahoma George Washington Teaching Ambassador and San Francisco Symphony's Keeping Score Education program.

The OK A+ network even goes global. I was fortunate to attend and present at the recent Creativity World Forum in Belgium. Oklahoma is the only state in the U.S. admitted as a creative district among world partners. Every country in this organization is seeking to maximize their creative potential, particularly through economic development. Oklahoma's initiative recognizes the vital role of education to that end and has lots to share with the rest of the world. In fact, the Creativity World Forum will be held in Oklahoma in 2010. [Read more about CWF.](#)

Speaking of expanding creativity, we've added Summer Kerby to our OK A+ office staff as Executive Assistant. She graduated with a biology degree in 2008 and is currently working on her Masters in Secondary Education at UCO.

"Working at OK A+ is rewarding because we're constantly striving to better the lives of students by bettering their education," said Summer.

Expand your horizons with creativity!
Jean Hendrickson
Oklahoma A+ Schools Executive Director

sm A+ rts

Miss Sams' 5th graders at [Freedom Elementary in Sapulpa, OK](#), have been learning about the Revolutionary War in social studies and perspective in reading.

In a creative assignment to assess student's learning, Miss Sams asked the students to choose a cause of the war, a battle, or another topic of their choice from the war and use Power Point, drama, music, or another art form of their choice to show the subject matter expressing both points of view.

Two students decided to complete the project as a Claymation. In collaboration with a middle school student neighbor, the boys learned how to put together their plan.

"I thought it would be kind of cool to make this project and it would be more fun to learn about

Creative Classrooms

Throughout the OK A+ network, PK-12 teachers nurture creativity in every learner. In this Snapshot of Creativity, students explore Verbal/Linguistic and Visual/Spatial [multiple intelligences](#) through *Putting It Together-Puppet Assessment*.



[Click here to view the lesson plan and details.](#) How could you adapt and adopt this for your classroom or practice? How could you use technology in your classroom with this lesson plan? See more examples of creativity across Oklahoma in an OK A+ Featured School [here](#).

All Around A+



Pictured above: Colonial Day at the capitol in Oklahoma City on Friday, January 16th, courtesy of [Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens](#).

OK A+ Schools® is a whole school model creatively addressing professional development, research and networking. Through its statewide network, OK A+ also reaches out nationally and internationally to continue nurturing creativity in every learner.

One of our national partners is historic Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, which selected Oklahoma as the first state for the George Washington Teaching Ambassador program. Joining Mount Vernon in this educator-based initiative are [The Oklahoma Department of Education](#), the [Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence](#), [Oklahoma A+ Schools](#), the [Oklahoma History Center](#) and the [Kirkpatrick Foundation](#).

This two-year initiative, funded by the [Donald W. Reynolds Foundation](#) puts Jan McClaren of Claremore on the ground in Oklahoma to work with educators across the state in developing lesson plans and programs emphasizing the character, accomplishments, and lasting legacy of our first president. McClaren has taught history in Oklahoma for 19 years and serves on the faculty at Claremore High School, as well as an Oklahoma

the Revolutionary War," said one of the students who created the Claymation.

[Click here to view the Claymation project video.](#)

"I agreed to his idea and watched in amazement as the two boys created their figures, discussed their script, researched for more information and worked at home and in school to complete the Claymation in MovieMaker," said Sams.

The students extended the assignment to show their class boring versus exciting ways to present a slideshow. Finally, they presented the Claymation to show the students how you could take the same information and make it exciting through art and technology.

"I was so impressed with their knowledge of the subject, from both the British and Colonial perspective, but was even more blown away that they took the meaning of perspective beyond my expectations and into the best way to present information for learning," said Sams.

"It turned out to be really fun, and it was really different. People really liked it," said another student who created the Claymation.

Sams said the students showed mastery of the subject matter and a deep

A+ Schools® Fellow.

"We are delighted that the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has made it possible for us to bring George Washington's accomplishments to life for teachers and students across the state of Oklahoma, which has a strong tradition of excellence in education," said Ann Bay, Associate Director of [Mount Vernon for Education](#).

McClaren maintains a Web site designed for Oklahoma teachers and students, and dedicates portraits of George Washington in Oklahoma schools. Many OK A+ Schools have received these portraits and have participated in the George Washington Essay contest.

Oklahoma Schools, educators and students are invited to participate in several ways.

First, log on to [George Washington Wired](#) for the latest updates and news.

Second, register to attend Nation to Nation, a daylong professional development experience at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. [Read more Nation to Nation](#).

Third, encourage your students to get creative and enter the George Washington Birthday Cake Contest. [Read more GW Cake Contest](#).

For more information, please contact George Washington Oklahoma Teaching Ambassador Jan McClaren at jmccclaren@mountvernon.org.

OK A+ provides Professional Development to 52 A+ schools throughout the year. If you are affiliated with an OK A+ School, [click here](#) for a 2008-2009 A+ Calendar of Events.

Want to learn more about becoming an A+ School? [Click here for details](#).

understanding of their instructional needs. She is inspired by these students on a daily basis and feels blessed to have the opportunity to teach such expansive minds.

What assignment can you adapt, adopt or create to integrate the arts and technology into your classroom or practice?

Join Our Mailing List!

Essential Evidence

Oklahoma A+ Schools and Wilson Elementary in Bartlesville, OK, receive national recognition in Edutopia February 2009 edition. [Read the article in Edutopia](#).

[See more research reports about Oklahoma A+.](#)





Get Connected

Oklahoma A+ Schools cultivates creativity across its network and wants to invite you to get active through the arts, education and your community.

Whether you're in an OK A+ School, or want to experience OK A+ first-hand, The Arts Integration Workshop is for you! The Arts Integration Workshop will feature Movie Soundtrack Theatre, a creative and interactive approach to history, visual art and more. At this time, [registration is by waiting list only](#). However, this professional development opportunity will be offered again next year. Keep posted to OK A+ for more details.

Not in an OK A+ School, but would like to learn more? Click [here](#) to find out how to join the OK A+ Schools network.

OK A+ Educators: Tune into a professional development opportunity and apply to the San Francisco Symphony's Keeping Score Education program. Click [here](#) to read more about Keeping Score applications due Feb. 27, 2009.

Check out [A+ Resources](#) for more links to arts, education and the community.

NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RESEARCH

[Oklahoma A+ Schools](#)

Oklahoma A+ Schools • 100 N University Drive • Campus Box 97 • Edmond • OK • 73034-5207

[Forward email](#)

Email Marketing by

Constant Contact
TRY IT FREE