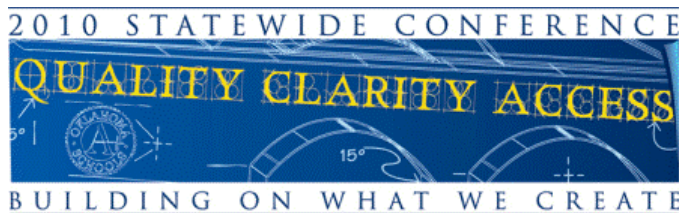


If you cannot view this e-mail, [click here](#)



September 2010



Click image to link to the
Oklahoma A+ Schools & Statewide Conference Ning.

SAVE THESE DATES!

A+ Fall Mini-Institute for Principals and Coordinators
Sept. 23 (evening) [\[Artspace\] at Untitled](#)
Sept. 24 (daytime) at [UCO](#)

A+ Regional Networking Meetings

Tulsa: Oct. 16, 2010
OKC: Nov. 6, 2010

[Creativity World Forum](#)

Nov. 15-17, Oklahoma City

When you hear people talk about "creative schools for the 21st Century," what do they mean? What if we asked the students themselves that question? [Oklahoma A+ Schools](#) and London England's [A New Direction](#) program decided to do just that. As a result, a team of students from London will join Oklahoma students onstage at the Creativity World Forum to be held in downtown OKC from November 15-17, 2010.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect and create, right here in Oklahoma City, as the international Districts of Creativity "converge" on our state, the only United States representative in the network. Register before October 15 and save \$100. Go to www.stateofcreativity.com for registration link. To download more information about who is coming and what will happen, [click this link](#).

Quick Links

[About A+](#)
[A+ Calendar](#)
[A+ Research Reports](#)
[Contact A+](#)
[A+ Featured School](#)

s m A+ r t s LESSONS

[Growing a Grammar Garden](#)

[Not Your Ordinary Math Book Lesson](#)

Kid Links

Check out these amazing websites

[Build Your Wild Self](#)

[Wordle](#)

[Tagxedo](#)

artsonia.com

kidsciencechallenge.com

NEW THIS YEAR AT OK A+

A+ ON WHEELS

Have you wanted to make paper with your students but didn't have the blenders, plywood, moulds and decks required? Do you find yourself interested in tapping into the rhythmic side of your students but just can't get the funds required for a djembe, a rain stick, castanets, or a thunder drum? Would costumes, props, and puppets help you integrate drama and dance in your classroom? Well, stop dreaming of things you can't afford and start planning how you'll use A+ on Wheels! Thanks to the generous support of the [Kirkpatrick Family Fund](#), Oklahoma A+ Schools has put together nine kits of materials for experiencing various art forms that A+ schools can enjoy and incorporate into classroom instruction. [Reserve your kit today!](#)



A Teachers explore a music tub during Summer Institute 2010.
(Click photo for more images.)

OK A+ Schools Online Lesson Sharing

Teaching is an art form. Share your artistry with the network! [This link](#) takes you to the A+ Ning site where you can upload your lessons by grade levels, add tags to identify topics, subjects, and concepts and search for lessons posted by others!

IMPROVED ACCESS THIS YEAR

OK A+ Intro/Refresher Available Online

What do our schools do to ensure that teachers new to their faculties are "A+ savvy?" In the past, new teachers attended 1½-day-long mini-institutes. This year, teachers new to A+ schools and teachers wanting an A+ refresher received Mini-Institute content at the Statewide Conference and are continuing via interactive online instruction. Others who wish to participate are invited to join the A+ online network at [A+ Conference Ning](#) and the appropriate OK A+ Intro/Refresher Group, either [Elementary](#) or [Secondary](#). These groups are especially designed for:

1. teachers new to A+ who did not get to attend the 5-day Institute with their school - whether or not they attended the Introductory session at Statewide Conference.
2. anyone wanting a refresher on the basic language and practices of A+.

Professional Development Videos Posted on A+ Ning "Creativity and Innovation" is just one of the videos available to you!

Let's be creative by thinking differently about education! Wes Fryer prepared a keynote presentation for eTech Ohio that might help you begin that journey. In his "Creativity and Innovation" video, students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes. They create original works as a

Educator Links

[The Creativity Crisis](#)

[Lesson Plan in Boston Schools: Don't Go It Alone](#)

[Inexperienced Companies Chase U.S. Schools Funds](#)

[Music Lessons Build Brainpower](#)

[We Have Met the Enemy and He Is PowerPoint](#)

[Alternate Path for Teachers Gain Grounds](#)

[Morals Class Is Starting: Please Pass the Popcorn](#)

[Can the Right Kinds of Play Teach Self-Control?](#)

[What Makes a Great Teacher](#)

[Building a Better Teacher](#)

[Room for Debate: Do School Libraries Need Books?](#)

[School Adds Weeding to Reading and Writing](#)

Arts



portrayed by
A+ artists

simulations to explore complex systems and issues, identify trends, and forecast possibilities. [Click here](#) to learn the procedures for earning professional development credit at the A+ Ning and to select a video.

Oklahoma A+ Schools®: What the Research Tells Us 2002-2007, Oklahoma A+ Schools' 5-year Research Report... You can now use Pay Pal, as well as credit card, purchase order, or check to purchase individual volumes OR the entire 5-volume set. Free pdf downloads are also available. [Click here.](#)

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WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER

OK A+ SUMMER INSTITUTES, CONFERENCES, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to the support of our partners, [OSSM](#)-The Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics and [TCC](#)-Tulsa Community College, eleven A+ schools convened for Summer Institutes and Conferences. In addition, A+ Facilitators led workshops and on-site conferences in fifteen schools across the state. Follow the links to see images from our A+ summer.

[Darnaby Elementary, Summer Institute 2010](#)

[Deer Creek Elementary's Informance video](#)

[Hinton Middle School's Informance video](#)

[Kaiser Elementary's Informance video](#)

[Locust Grove Upper Elementary-Child in the Chair photos](#)

We want to thank Office Max for providing notebooks for our Institute participants and Auto Zone for assisting with our purchase of pans used for curriculum mapping.

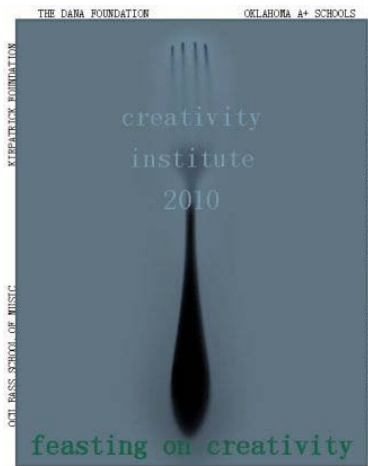
OK A+ STATEWIDE CONFERENCE 2010

The Oklahoma A+ Schools network and friends came together on August 21 at Moore-Norman Technology Center, South Penn Campus, for our annual statewide conference. Guest presenters and exhibitors joined A+ Fellows to present a wide variety of workshops. Special thanks go to [Sam Chaltain](#), [San Francisco Keeping Score](#), [Smart Start Central Oklahoma](#),



OK A+ Executive Director Jean Hendrickson in SWC Opening Video
(Click photo for more SWC pics.)

Eric Dawson and Apple Computers, [The Oklahoma Museum Network](#), Beth Howard and her [Art Ambassadors](#) from A+ Mark Twain Elementary-Tulsa, [Marsha Weiner](#) and [New Paradigm Reading](#), OK A+ Researchers (the Fab Four), and our wonderful [A+ Fellows](#). Read more about the conference [here](#).



Click image for photos from the institute.

CREATIVITY INSTITUTE

We all know how important the creative process is for getting the best out of students. This summer 50 dedicated teachers from across the state, representing all grade levels, were given the opportunity to work directly with creative people while building their skills in using technology and the arts more creatively.

Through the generous support of the Dana Foundation, Oklahoma's Education Leaders Institute, made up of members from Oklahoma A+ Schools, the Oklahoma State Department of

Education, Tulsa Public Schools, Oklahoma City University, and the Kirkpatrick Foundation, held the CREATIVITY INSTITUTE in Oklahoma City from July 7th through the 9th, with a follow-up day to take place on October 9, 2010.

Participants received:

- Valuable skills in creatively integrating technology and the arts into PASS objectives for immediate use in the teachers' classrooms,
- Digital equipment to take back to the classroom and extend the learning to students,
- Immersion in cultural, artistic and technological experiences in the OKC area in order to help the teacher create meaning and connect to arts for the classroom using 21st century skills,
- A network of like-minded professionals,
- Training from artists, master teachers, and the most capable of all 21st Century Learners: Students who are already using technology creatively!

The three days in July were filled with interesting student-led sessions, fabulous food inspired by the theme of Feasting on Creativity, and wonderful experiences that included visits to arts-rich environments in Oklahoma City. The Downtown OKC library was the hub, with visits to the Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Oklahoma City University's Bass School of Music, Bricktown, and OKC's Automobile Alley.

The follow-up event on October 9th is dedicated to showcasing the artifacts of student learning and giving this community of educators the opportunity to continue their learning and reflect on and share the benefits, challenges and surprises of integrating technologically inspired project-based learning opportunities into their classrooms.

Around A+

Beth Howard, Art Teacher at A+ Mark Twain Elementary, Tulsa, has been selected to receive the Governor's Art Award, to be presented Nov. 9 at the Oklahoma

State Capitol. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Arts Council, the award lauds individuals for their contributions and leadership in supporting the arts in education. Both Beth and her Art Ambassadors have provided creative leadership and service in their school and community. **Congratulations, Beth!**

-- [Images of Art Ambassador and school art projects](#)

-- [Learn and Serve Oklahoma](#), one of the programs to which Beth contributes

-- [We Are the Revolutionaries](#), presentation at 2008 Social Studies and Fine Arts Conference



Michael Dubois, who was on staff at Oklahoma A+ Schools last year as a Regional Coordinator, returned to the classroom to teach 5th grade students at new A+ school [Kaiser Elementary](#). Michael will continue in the A+ Fellows cadre. Happy Trails, Michael!

Essential Evidence

By Tyler Weldon, Operations Director

Now that we are back into the school year, we are continuing the publication of the OK A+ newsletter. In the last few issues prior to summer break, I invited folks to join me in exploring current literature relevant to the work of arts integration and whole school transformation. For the next eight months I am going to choose articles based on the eight essentials, beginning this month with Arts.

In his article, [Enhancing Student Learning Through Arts Integration: Implications for the Profession](#), David Gullatt (2008) examines the numerous benefits to teaching and learning that the arts provide to both educators and students in PK-12 school settings. In this review of literature Gullatt discusses the infusion of arts into the present American curriculum, distinguishing distinct arts programs from arts fully integrated into the classroom or arts-cultura as referred to by an author from the *Arts Education Policy Review* (Davis, 1999).

After a thoughtful exploration of the relationship between the arts and academic achievement, Gullatt concludes that "Learning through the arts provides students the opportunity for constructing meaning of content related material through the use of the visual, dramatic, and musical arts while learning in the arts gives students the exposure to specific skills gained through instruction in these art forms."

In OK A+ Schools we are bound by a commitment to the eight essentials, and within the Arts essential we further commit to Arts which are:

- taught daily
- inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual art and writing
- integrated
- valued as essential to learning
- included in planning
- practiced
- a part of personal experience

This article is additional affirmation of that commitment.



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.

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.

Click to see [Aug-Sep Community Happenings and Resources for Educators](#).

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

National Arts in Education Week, Sept 12-18
<http://www.aep-arts.org/artsineducationweek.html>



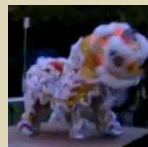
International Day of Peace Pinwheels for Peace Festival and Giant Pinwheel Contest - Sunday, Sept. 19, 2:00-4:00 PM

Drum circle starts at 1:30, so bring a drum and join in! [Plunkett Park](#), [UCO Campus](#), 100 N Univ Dr, Edmond

Live music, dance, multicultural performances, activity booths, a giant pinwheel display and competition! [Event Flyer](#), [Pinwheel Contest information](#), [Pinwheel Contest Entry Form](#),

Asian Moon Festival, Friday, Sept.24, 6:00 PM
[Plunkett Park](#), [UCO Campus](#), 100 N University Dr, Edmond 73034

Dragon Dance, craft tables, magician, free goodies, free admission! Bring blankets and lawn chairs. For more information, contact Multicultural Student Services at 974-5944.



Teachers Sneak Peek - Oklahoma City's Adventure District
Tuesday, Sept.28, 4:00-7:00 PM

Visit four Adventure District locations to learn about educational programs, speak with representatives about educational resources, receive refreshments and free supplies for your classroom and students. Participating Locations: National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, OKC Zoo, ASA National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum, Remington Park.


[Registration](#), [Flyer](#)

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