Season's Greetings
FROM THE OKLAHOMA A+ SCHOOLS INSTITUTE STAFF

Danyel
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MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH CHEER!
Spring New Teacher Mini-Summit

Registration is now Open!

Wednesday, Feb. 8th 2023
8:30 AM-4:00 PM
University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond, OK

Register here: bit.ly/NEW-TEACHER-2023

Arts Integration Workshops Return in February!

Show What You Know:
Comics as Enriched Assessment (3-12)

Let your students tap into their critical thinking skills by introducing them to drawing comics and storyboarding. In this workshop, you will learn an easy way to teach students how to draw identifiable characters using the Ivan Brunetti method. We will also practice the visual art/creative writing exercises developed by Lynda Barry. With these newfound skills, application crosses all subjects and the assessment opportunities are endless! We will experiment with storyboards and collaborative drawing, and brainstorm application of these new tools to the disciplines you teach and with your own students.

Register here for your choice: https://bit.ly/ArtsIntFeb2023

The Creative Classroom (pK-5)

Get creative! Imaginative! Inspire “solutionary” thinking! Do your students crave connection between curriculum and real world problem solving? Do you want to turn up the volume of excitement for learning in the classroom? Do you need fresh research on the importance of creativity? In this workshop we will dive into the Williams Taxonomy: The 8 Creative Thinking Skills, and we will design centers that allow for purposeful, curriculum-connected activities that give students the freedom to play with ideas, create new possibilities, build connections, and imagine unique solutions.

You will leave with plenty of new, inspiring center ideas that get your students thinking, designing, creating, problem solving, and working together no matter the subject or grade level.

Saturday, Feb. 25th @ UCO in Edmond

Register here for your choice: https://bit.ly/ArtsIntFeb2023

Have new teachers joining the staff after the holidays? Have new teachers who couldn’t come in September?

This event will help new staff members understand what OKA+ Schools is and gain an introduction to the vocabulary of A+ for understanding conversations among your school staff.
Amanda is a kindergarten teacher at Hennessey Early Childhood Center in Hennessey, Oklahoma and the 2022 DaVinci Teacher of the Year Award winner! A Hennessey native, Amanda married her high school sweetheart, Johnathan, and has two daughters: Kimberlyn and Ansley. After graduating high school she earned her B.S. in elementary education at Oklahoma State University. She has taught in both Mustang Public Schools as well as in Hennessey.

Amanda's father has always been an active community member in Hennessey and made Amanda feel special and important as a child. These qualities helped inspire her to get into education where she not only gets to treat her students as special, but teaches them to be caring and inspiring toward others.

A+ has reminded her of how exciting the world around us is. She teaches her students about how music can tell stories (like the Nutcracker), has her students use visual art to show their learning, and uses process art to enrich daily lessons. A+ "has helped me transform my classroom into an educational experience that is more inspiring and motivating."

For this feature, she wants to impart some words of wisdom: "Choose to be a blessing to someone everyday. You never know what loads a person might be privately carrying, but you can always show kindness and grace toward others. You may never know the impact of your kind words, but when you choose grace, you will most definitely make an impact.

Amanda is an exemplar for OKA+, and we congratulate her once again for earning her DaVinci Teacher of the Year Award honors!