Register Now for Virtual New Teacher Mini Summit

Each year Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute offers a one day experience for new teachers who have joined an OKA+ school, but have not had any training. These sessions provide an introduction to the A+ philosophy, our A+ Essentials, and arts-integrated activities you can use right away. We pack the day with learning, collaboration, and fun!

Due to COVID-19, we will now offer New Teacher Mini Summit completely online. Join us Monday, September 14th, or Saturday, September 19th. Each session begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at noon. If you have any questions about registration, please email Audrey Charlson at acharlson@uco.edu. We look forward to seeing you online for a great morning of learning about Oklahoma A+ Schools!

*Click the link to register: https://bit.ly/NewTeacherOKA

*Please note: If your school is brand new for the 20-21 year, you do not need to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Virtual New Teacher Mini Summit - 9/14 & 9/19
- TLC Workshop - 10/3
- Virtual Pre-Application Meetings - 10/6 & 10/7

Head to page 2 to learn about and register for our new virtual Saturday workshop series, TLC: Teachers Learning Creatively.

We will host Pre-Application meetings virtually on October 6th and 7th. To register and learn more click HERE.

Watch the first installment of our new Facebook video series on page 3!
Welcome to a New School Year!

By Sandy Kent

Oklahoma A+ Schools Institute welcomes you to a school year like none other. It is clear many things have changed and many are experiencing school differently this year. Whether you are in person wearing masks or virtual and using Bitmoji, every school has been affected and we recognize that you still need support to provide creative, arts-filled learning. The great thing about being a part of the OKA+ Network is we have always tailored professional development to the needs of your school, and this year is providing us the opportunity to demonstrate just what that really means.

Your Regional Coordinators are ready to help you plan what you need to stay successful, be it virtually or in person. We see this as a time to use our imaginations and design PD for you in ways you may have never thought about before. Please feel free to contact us to help you with ideas, to be a thought partner, or a listening ear.

We are also happy to introduce some new things to you, such as this newsletter, T.E.A. Time (Talking Education & Arts Integration) on Facebook, and monthly virtual Teachers Learning Creatively (TLC) Workshops. Take the time to explore these and watch for other new opportunities as well. You are the reason for what we do, and we look forward to a great year, even if it is a bit different!

Stay Creative and Be Inspired!

Sandra Kent
Executive Director

"Creativity is now as important in education as literacy."

Sir Ken Robinson

Register now for TLC: Teachers Learning Creatively

Click HERE to register.

Need a little TLC during this ever-changing school year? OKA+ is here for you! Our new workshop series, Teachers Learning Creatively, is a monthly offering to bring fresh ideas and strategies to your virtual and in-person classrooms.

WHEN: Saturday, 10/3
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
WHERE: Zoom!
ELEMENTARY: Bitmoji - Integrating Art Elements
SECONDARY: FORMatting Digital Lessons for Historical & Current Events

See the full list and descriptions of upcoming TLC workshops by clicking HERE.
Jennifer Burris has become a familiar face to many in the Oklahoma A+ Schools network since beginning as a Fellow in 2013. She recently took on a new OKA+ role as the Eastern Oklahoma Regional Coordinator! Jennifer is a doctoral candidate at the University of Maryland studying Minority and Urban Education. She previously taught math at Harding Fine Arts Academy, an OKA+ demonstration school site. At the university level, she has taught graduate and undergraduate teacher education courses. She is a former DaVinci Institute A+ Teacher of the Year. Jennifer’s areas of expertise include anti-racist education, teacher education, and social justice leadership.

When asked about the best piece of advice she’s ever been given, Jennifer said, "You can't make everyone happy, and neutrality is not an option. In education and in life, I must work to eliminate inequities and injustices." She also shared, "I constantly ask myself, what am I doing to create a just world? How am I developing and modeling an equitable community?"

Jennifer credits a strong community of educators among those who have supported and pushed her in her work, including Naomi Rothrock and Barry Schmelzenbach of Harding Fine Arts Academy. "They have seen me on my worst days and lifted me up to help me reach my greatest successes." Finally, Jennifer believes the impact of education is limitless, and we could not agree more. We hope you enjoy getting to know her as a Regional Coordinator this year!

Q: Crayons or Markers? A: Flair Pens
Q: Art Museum or Musical? A: All of the above
Q: Sing or Dance? A: Both at the same time *insert jazz hands here*
Q: Music or podcast? Before spin class, music. Otherwise, Crime Junkie.

Check out the first video in our new Facebook series, T.E.A. Time with OKA+!

Click HERE to follow us on Facebook so you never miss a new video!