Creating an ‘Art Smart’ Classroom

By Brian Murphy
Art Teacher, Sorgho Elementary School

As teachers begin to plan for the upcoming school year and try to imagine a classroom that excites, motivates and inspires their students, keep in mind many of your students fit into that category of visual and kinesthetic learning. Art is the perfect way to engage those students who express themselves through drawing, dramatic play, building and creating and simply making stuff. In creating an “Art Smart” classroom, you are tapping into the creative energy that exists in your students and recognizing that creating and performing is a safe and acceptable form of expression in your classroom.

Creative arts are activities that engage children’s imagination through expression, creating and “out of the box” thinking. They can engage students through all domains – cognitive, language, social, emotional and physical. The activities are intentionally open-ended to foster divergent thinking and support the process of creating without particular attention to the finished product.

When children have the freedom to explore art materials and create whatever they wish, they are engaging in the art process.

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The STOP Tipline is an anonymous 24-hour online reporting tool to submit concerns about bullying, violence or other dangerous behaviors. Information about threats should always be reported immediately to 911. Information submitted to the STOP Tipline is reviewed by district administrators who have been trained in appropriate follow-up measures. The STOP Tipline may be accessed on our district website at www.dcps.org or any DCPS school website. Please help us communicate information about this reporting resource by sharing reminders about the STOP Tipline with students, family members and friends.

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Art is a form of self-expression; an art center is a place where learners can go to express themselves creatively. Even if you are working in a small space, you don’t need a large area to address the needs of your diverse learners in the classroom.

Simply adding some reproduction prints of famous artwork, photographs or sculpture and changing them out a few times a year can be a great point of discussion and writing for students and help them become familiar with the importance of artwork in public settings and its value in our world. If possible, support local artists and art fairs by buying some artwork to display in your classroom.

Another way to create an “Art Smart” classroom is to include an Arts Activities and Interest Center. Have materials in the center that will encourage creativity and imagination. Some simple and inexpensive items to get you started could include watercolor paint, brushes, play dough, modeling clay, markers, crayons, craft sticks, pipe cleaners and colored pencils.

A dress-up box with oversized shirts, props and costume jewelry can open up a world of self-expression and allow children to act out their feelings. Theatre props and puppets can help children explore their emotional range and develop self-control and explore their range of emotions in a safe and social setting. Developing these emotions during childhood is essential to emotional regulation in adulthood.

Creative arts activities also offer opportunities for exploring cultural diversity in music, rituals, ceremonies and celebrations.

Remember, children learn through exploration and interactions within their environment and with each other. Providing opportunities for collaboration, discovery and exploration in creative experiences will foster children’s levels of cognition, which will promote physical, social and emotional well-being. Creating an “Art Smart” classroom will benefit your students’ long term success as well as cultivate the best of the whole child.

Kids First Day

All DCPS staff members are invited to participate in “Kids First” celebrations on the last Wednesday of each month. Wear jeans and your “Kids First” shirts to share our commitment with our community!

Rise Up / Be the One and Kids First Shirts

The DCPS Kids First apparel online store is open through Aug. 21 for orders to be delivered in September. Click HERE to view selection of short- and long-sleeved T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies etc. in a variety of colors and sizes. Contact Seth Daugherty at 270-977-8393 or sethD@centralscreenprinting.com
Leadership and Staffing Update

As the 2019-2020 school year begins, we are honored to introduce several new administrators, instructional leaders and key support personnel to our team, as well as announcing some familiar faces in new places. Please extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our DCPS family!

Marie Holder
Guidance Counselor
College View
Middle School

Rachel Rosales
Instructional Coach,
STEM
Apollo High School

Kendra Bronsink
Assistant Principal
Burns
Middle School

Ashley Mattingly
Student Services
Administrative Assistant

Tim Roy
Dean of Students
Burns
Middle School

Karen Alward
Instructional Coach
Daviess County
High School

Christina King
Instructional Coach,
Humanities
Apollo High School

Larry Shadowen
District Support Services
Interventionist

Brandy Bishop
Assistant Principal
Burns
Elementary School

Derrick Payne
Purchasing Supervisor

Brandie Toler
Preschool Assistant
Central Office

Wendy Cooper
Instructional Coach
Burns
Elementary School
(Interim)

Ben Morris
Life Science Academy Teacher

Angela Gunter
District Literacy Instructional Coach

Holly Phillips
Special Education Instructional Coach

Have we missed anyone?
Please send information and photos of new administrators and/or staff members who serve the DCPS district to grapevine@dcps.org by Friday, Aug. 23.
Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following members of the DCPS family as they welcome their new arrivals:

Mackenzie Murphy (AHS) welcomed a baby boy on May 22. Adam Matthew Murphy weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces upon arrival.

Kelly Lewis (DCHS) is a grandmother! Charlotte Mae Jessee was born July 20, weighing in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measuring 20 inches in length at birth.

Melissa Shoulta (BMS) and her husband Charlie (AHS) have welcomed their fourth child. Xander Christian Shoulta was born Aug. 3.

Kandie McDaniel (DCMS) has announced the birth of her first grandchild. Benjamin Ezra Flores arrived on Aug. 3, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 21 inches in length.

Sara Vanegas (DCHS) welcomed a baby girl on Aug. 5. Maria Lydia Vanegas was 7 pounds, 4 ounces of pure sweetness and measured 20 inches long upon arrival. Proud grandparents are Mark (AHS) and Lydia (TES) Fuller.

David Lyons (AHS) is a proud grandfather! Lillian Alaine DeArmond was born Aug. 8.

Kelsey Settles (BES) and her husband Jess have announced the arrival of a baby boy. William Henry Settles was born Aug. 9, weighing 5 pounds, 12 ounces and measuring 19 inches in length. Paternal grandmother is Janie Settles (CVMS, retired) and maternal grandmother is Shannon Bowen (CO).

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Tony Dunn (DCHS) on the birth of his 10th grandchild. Keeland Nekoda Dunn was born Aug. 19, weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces. He’s a cutie!

Submit Milestone News (births, deaths, weddings) to grapevine@dcps.org

Sincere Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to the following members of the DCPS family during their time of loss:

Tonya Dean (AHS) in the loss of her husband, Billy Paul Dean of Utica, on May 22.

Col. Edgar Paul (AHS) in the loss of his son, E. Scott Paul, on May 23.

Brooke Parker (CVMS) in the loss of her grandfather, Roger Anderson, on June 28.

David Ford (CVMS) in the loss of his father, the Rev. Scott Ford, on July 2.

Donna Howard (CO) in the loss of her mother, Margaret “Helen” Lanham of Knottsville, on July 12.

Jill Sparks (AHS) in the loss of her grandfather, LV Dant of Beech Grove, on July 17.

Renee Hooks (DCHS) in the loss of her mother, Sissy Fulkerson of Owensboro, on July 17.

Annette Wetzel (DCHS) in the loss of her husband, Doug Wetzel, on July 18. Mr. Wetzel was also the father of Langley Wetzel Roby (AHS) and Larkin Wetzel (BES).

Robyn Collignon (MLES) in the loss of her mother, Margaret Youngblood of Richland, Ind., on July 20.

Amy Dobbs (CVMS) in the loss of her father, Richard Browning, on Aug. 1.

Gabriela Martinez (CO) in the loss of her mother, Magdalena Garcia of Texas, on Aug. 3.

Rhonda Smith (CVMS) in the loss of her mother, Jeanette Millican, on Aug. 4.

Donna Payne (CO) in the loss of her stepmother, Martha Greer-Johnson, on Aug. 6.

Whitney Matthews (AHS) in the loss of her grandmother, Martha Howard, on Aug. 6. Mrs. Howard was also the mother-in-law of Tyler Matthews (AHS).

Angela Lynn (MLES) in the loss of her grandmother, Betty Jo Staples of Fordsville, on Aug. 6.

Family and friends of Glenn Young of Owensboro, former principal at Tamarack Elementary School and DCPS assistant superintendent of personnel, who passed away on Aug. 9.

Kara Nash (MLES) in the loss of her brother-in-law, Brad Nash of Owensboro, on Aug. 17.

Family and friends of David Barnes of Princeton, former science teacher and head football coach at Daviess County High School, who passed away on Aug. 17.
Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed your summer, got lots of rest and are ready to have a great year.

DC-KEA is off to a great start! You have signed up 33 new members since Aug. 1. Nice work!

We have fewer than 100 days until Election Day. The deadline to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 7. Now is the time to check, update or register to vote to make sure your voice is heard. Registering to vote has never been easier. It is as simple as going online to www.govoteky.com/empowered

Check your registration today! Don’t forget to share this link with colleagues, friends and family members, and encourage them to register to vote too!

■ Congratulations to Kyle Payton (DCHS), pictured above. He won the “Back to School with KEA” basket.

■ Our next meeting is 4 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at the DCPS Learning Center. Mark your calendar and join us there! Thank you for a great start!

Danielle Ellis, DC-KEA President
DCPS Center for Academic Improvement
270-852-7226 danielle.ellis@daviess.kyschools.us

Preschool Instruction Assistants PD
DCPS preschool instructional assistants attended a specialized professional development session on Aug. 5.

Preschool director Chris Westerfield reviewed regulations and confidentiality requirements. Special services behavior specialist Dr. Elizabeth McFadden reviewed visual supports for behavior and how to teach hands-on tasks with prompt fading. Early childhood instructional coach Donna Howard shared information about preschool support and the importance of a team approach.

We currently have about 650 preschool children enrolled and undergoing screening in elementary schools across our district. DCPS is committed to providing a quality early childhood education experience to build a strong foundation for the future for our littlest learners.

News, Information and Updates
We are here to serve and support you! From left: Nancy Roush (UniServe director for Daviess County); Eddie Campbell (KEA president); Danielle Ellis (DC-KEA president).

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Thoughts While Walking Through

By Jimmy Lyddane
Director of Elementary Schools

Let me start today by thanking all of you for a phenomenal start to the school year! I can’t remember a better start to the first seven days. Your hard work and leadership have brought everyone together to run out of the gate and start loving, guiding and challenging our kids to be better.

The great start to our year has left me thinking about your leadership. Each day, I am more and more pleased as I visited your schools and your classrooms. I am even more impressed with your instructional leadership in your buildings. When I examine the four dimensions of instructional leadership, I can see vividly the Vision, Mission and Learning focused culture you have established. All of you have established a clear direction for academic success for every student that is reflective by how engaged your staff, school community, and especially your students are in living out that vision and mission daily. The growth mindset is alive in your schools as all the decision and actions being taken are centered around one focus, student achievement. As I visit the classrooms, I see a results focused learning environments where all our teachers are very responsive to each student’s learning needs with high expectations of everyone.

Without any question whatsoever, the evidence of your instructional leadership of Improvement of Instructional Practice is in every classroom. I see the shared vision of effective instruction with the work in your curriculums to refine best practice instruction that is rigorous and engaging. The continued growth of the teachers is a reflection of your support for their growth in their craft. Excellent!

Each year, we have to become more and more strategic in our allocation of resources. There will never be enough money, time, or human capital to meet the needs of our students, but I so appreciate that those limits have not distracted us from our mission. We are gaining more traction in focusing on and meeting the needs of our students with learning gaps, social/emotional needs, as well as our advanced students. Our schedules are being adjusted to make the most effective use of our time to focus on student achievement. The alignment of our human capital supports are centered around the needs of our students and focused on leveraging the best use of our time in meeting those students needs. There is literally no resource that you don’t strategically plan on utilizing the most effective and impactful way to support our students.

Management of Systems and Processes is most likely the dimension of instructional leadership that is continually being refined more purposefully each year. I see it and appreciate the challenges it places on each of you. Your focus on professional growth and systems of support are quickly becoming models that principals and instructional leaders will one day be writing books about. I smiled going in and out of classrooms these past several days as I can see the results of your schools’ professional learning that implements during your professional learning days – but more importantly the embedded professional learning your teams did during PLCs and faculty meeting times. I LOVED that you included your instructional assistants in the learning and it is more evident each year that this is becoming more and more of a priority for us. We could not work our magic without their amazing support and hard work!

The structures of support you strategically plan regarding team planning, student monitoring, monitoring of instructional practice and craft are evident daily in the classrooms. I see classrooms where the curriculum has been meticulously planned to meet student needs, adjusting instruction and providing scaffolds and extensions based on monitoring student progress, and teachers reaching a level of professionally and mastery that is exceptional!

Thank you for all you do to stay centered and focused on instructional leadership! I am very thankful for your team’s hard work and passion! I am very proud of each and every one of you!
Community Health Investments Grant

‘Umbrella Project’ will support mental health services for students

The Daviess County Public Schools district is honored to be selected as a recipient of a $30,000 Owensboro Health Community Health Investments Grant. The announcement was made Thursday, Aug. 15, at Owensboro Health Regional Hospital as part of a ceremony facilitated by Owensboro Health representatives Debbie Zuerner Johnson, director of community engagement; and Erica Wade, community outreach specialist. The award was accepted by Christina Dalton, DCPS district social worker; and Rhonda Welch, DCPS student assistance coordinator, who had submitted the grant application, along with other district leaders and representatives.

“The Umbrella Project – Mindful Movement” title reflects the project’s spectrum of concepts that fall under a specific issue, which in this case is mental health.

The project is designed to support the DCPS district’s ongoing work in the area of trauma-informed practices. Trauma-informed practices involve understanding, recognizing and responding to the effects of all kinds of trauma, with an emphasis on physical, psychological and emotional safety. “Trauma” may include a child’s exposure to violence, crime, or psychological or physical abuse, as well as dealing with medical stress or grief. These experiences have both immediate and long-term effects on a child’s academic, emotional, social and physical health and well-being, as documented by Adverse Childhood Experiences Study research: https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuse-andneglect/acesstudy/index.html

The Mindful Movement includes several layers of response and support, including the implementation of “Mindfulness” rooms – designated areas at pilot schools that will serve as a safe, quiet space where students can retreat when feeling overwhelmed by circumstances or emotions.

The district will also sponsor a community event for parents, educators and all those who work with children to learn about the “Love and Logic” parenting program, which provides a framework of strategies designed to nurture positive behaviors in children. The grant will also support the DCPS district’s partnership with the University of Kentucky, which will provide “Trauma-Informed Practices for Educators (Part 3),” building on our teachers’ training in areas of resilience and response strategies. The mini-learning collaborative with UK will continue throughout the 2019-20 school year.

Grant funding will also provide services of a dedicated social/emotional learning consultant, who will work with district leaders and staff members to develop learning standards across the district using the CASEL model (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning – https://casel.org/).

“We are so grateful to Owensboro Health for supporting the work we are doing in Daviess County Public Schools to help us positively impact the mental health needs of our students and families in the community,” Christy Dalton said. “The positive impact we have already seen with this work is amazing. To be able to do this on a larger scale is a true blessing.”
The National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) has announced educators selected for its Leadership Academy. Trey Pippin, who serves as college and career readiness coach at Daviess County High School, will be part of the academy’s Class of 2019.

Now in its second year, the Leadership Academy provides an opportunity for participants to strengthen leadership and strategic planning skills through intensive training. Trey will work with a mentor who will provide one-on-one coaching as he completes a project related to his professional goals, which will be presented at a culminating workshop in 2020. Topics that will be included as part of the academy include strategic planning; education policy framework and advocacy; analyzing and using data and understanding trends; creative problem-solving; building partnerships and networks; and transformative leadership.

Trey said his participation in the academy will strengthen his work as a college and career readiness coach. “Our dual and concurrent enrollment program is opening doors for students and families,” he said. “As our program grows, I am constantly looking for ways to continue improving and growing professionally.”

Trey was eligible to apply for the academy through the Daviess County Public Schools district’s partnership with Owensboro Community and Technical College, an NACEP accredited institution. “I decided to apply in order to continue bringing attention to our stellar dual credit program and showcasing it amongst the best programs in the country,” he said. “Our dual and concurrent enrollment programs are exposing our students to challenging college coursework that allows them to earn college credit while still in high school at a huge tuition discount – isn’t that awesome?”

Amanda Jerome, who serves as the DCPS college and career readiness coordinator, said Trey is a deserving recipient of this honor. “I am very proud to work with Trey Pippin as CCR coach at Daviess County High School,” she said. “Trey is full of enthusiasm and it shows in his work with our students. I am so proud of him for being selected to the Leadership Academy through the National Alliance of Concurrent Partnerships. Trey’s participation in the NACEP Leadership Academy will allow him to be exposed to top concurrent programs across the nation, which will only challenge him to become an even better resource for our students, teachers and parents. I truly enjoy working with Trey and am very pleased that he was offered this opportunity to further develop his leadership skills.”

Trey Pippin named to Leadership Academy

Trey brings a unique background to his work with students. After graduating from DCHS in 2008, he was selected as a McConnell Scholar and was awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of Louisville. The McConnell Scholar program, founded by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, was designed to provide an “Ivy League” experience for Kentucky’s “best and brightest students” in order to keep them in the Commonwealth instead of leaving to attend college elsewhere. Trey earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science in 2012. Following working stints in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007, the U.S. Senate in 2011, and the Walt Disney World Resort in 2013, Trey completed a master of arts in teaching secondary social studies (grades 9-12) in 2013. He has found a passion in working with young people and helping them plan for their next steps after high school.

Are you or a colleague doing something new, interesting, exciting? Let us know! Send information and photographs to grapevine@dcps.org
Healthy Lifestyle
Tip of the Week

You probably know you need to exercise. What you probably don’t know is how to squeeze the time it takes to exercise into your schedule. To help you fit in a little fitness every Move It Monday, we’ve gathered a few easy exercises you can do at work (or anywhere, for that matter) that can be performed in very little time. Research shows that small bouts of exercise benefit your health, so try a new mini exercise when you’ve got a spare minute.

This week we’ll show you how to perform a Side Leg Raise. This movement helps improve your balance while strengthening your hips, thighs, and glutes. It’s something you can perform at a standing meeting, or just for a few moments while you’re up on your feet. Here’s how:

With your feet slightly apart, stand behind a sturdy chair, which you can hold onto for balance. Slowly lift one leg out to the side, keeping your back straight and your toes facing forward. Make sure not to lock your standing leg – add a slight bend to it if it is locked. Hold your lifted leg in the lifted position for at least one second. Then slowly lower it back to the ground. Repeat this movement for 10 to 15 times. Then repeat these steps with the other leg.

These weekly fitness reminders are brought to you by the DCPS Food Services Department. We care about you! Learn more at www.moveitmonday.org (Remember, this information is good for every day of the week, not just Monday!)

Sign Up Today!

The Foundation for Daviess County Public Schools will host “Battle of the Backpacks” presented by Owensboro Health at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, at O.Z. Tyler Distillery.

Attendees may choose to walk or ride the school bus from the O.Z. Tyler parking lot to the venue front door, where they will be greeted by the Apollo Eagle and DCHS Panther mascots. Dream Copy Photography will take official event photos with iconic School Picture Day backgrounds as mementos of the occasion. Guests will be encouraged to check-in with their followers throughout the night and we will have the school desk social media photo area.”

Foundation chair-elect Jen Vogel is coordinating the games. “Attendees may challenge friends and business colleagues to play games like ‘Are YOU Smarter than a 5th Grade Teacher?’, the Spelling Bee and Geography Bee,” Jen said. “There is also a Pay-to-Stay option with audience members placing cash or checks into the game backpack should a team miss a question.”

Local chef Matt Weaver will put his gourmet spin on “School-Lunch-For-Dinner” featuring everyone’s favorite school lunches: “Square Pizza with Corn” or “Spaghetti with Salad.” Chocolate mousse will be offered in place of traditional chocolate pudding.

WBKR radio personality Chad Benefield will be master of ceremonies at the event.

A bourbon pull will be a featured event. Attendees may purchase a backpack which will then be traded for a bottle of bourbon to take home. The backpack will be donated to DCPS FRYSC for student needs.

Sponsorships are available through Aug. 23. Contact Vicki Quisenberry at VickiQ@FoundationForDCPS.org or 270-231-5583 for sponsorship information. Tickets for Battle of the Backpacks and team entry fees can be purchased on the Foundation website at www.foundationfordcps.org.
DC-bay!

Deadline to submit items for our next DC-bay! feature is Friday, Sept. 13.


Free to a good home: Handsome Jack. This beautiful, large, young neutered lap cat has such a cool, unique, laid-back personality. He would love the pleasure of your company (or your kids) indoors or out. Gets along great with other pets too. Kathy Albin (Transportation), 270-570-1099.

Furniture for sale – Three-seater sofa; two outside seats recline. Two-seat love seat rocks and reclines. Recliner also rocks. Dark brown suede-like material with lighter brown stitch work around the edges. Asking $750 for all. Contact Amanda Davis (SES) at 270-485-2990 for more information.

DC-bay! is a monthly feature of the Grapevine.

Send items to grapevine@dcps.org
Include your name, school/site, description of item, price, and home/personal phone number. Photographs are welcome; size and number of photos used depends on available space and layout.
Note: DC-bay! is for DCPS staff members only.