

Innovation Area

Connecting Fine Arts to the Curriculum

**Ideas contributed by graduates of the
Urban Teacher Corps
through the
Polk Bros. Foundation Innovation Network.**

Challenge:

How to get the support of all the classroom teachers for the Fine Arts Program.

Idea:

Develop curriculum that ties into what they are teaching. It reinforces their teaching and will help student comprehension of both the Fine Arts and the Core Curriculum.

Application:

Meet with principal to gather support, direction, and cooperation.

Meet with teachers at their grade level meetings to find out what they are teaching.

Share curriculum with them, integrating the Fine Arts.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

See application ideas.

Challenge:

Art is viewed as unimportant, a frill, not an essential part of the curriculum.

Idea:

Involve teachers in the art curriculum.

Application:

Brainstorm with teachers on ways to connect art with their curriculum, and provide follow-up activities classroom teachers can do with art projects.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

In-school workshops.
Inform teachers about the curriculum.

Challenge:

Students need to connect Fine Arts – music, art, drama – with the entire curriculum.

Idea:

Develop a connecting curriculum making all subjects relevant.

Application:

Create assemblies with drama and music creating a realistic era of history which incorporates lesson plans.

Have weekly meetings with classroom teachers.

Agree with classroom teachers to take classes on field trips to museums and operas, providing exposure to different art forms.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

Create a network with teachers from other schools.

Have scheduled meetings.

Contributing Educators:

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Challenge:

Using music in the classroom to increase time-on-task and decrease behavior problems.

Idea:

Music is used everywhere to get people to buy into things. Educators can use music to get students to “buy into” education.

Application:

Start the day with upbeat music.
Use music for transitions.
Use music to settle students instead of yelling.
Use music at the end of the day.

How to connect teachers with this idea

Encourage teachers to begin incorporating music in the classroom slowly.
Start with the beginning of the day, transitions, end of the day.
Teach educators how to select appropriate music for class.
DO NOT PLAY THE RADIO.

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