

Yonkers

"Using the arts to enhance specific classroom lessons is a positive way to reach students, especially those children who may be English Language Learners or having difficulty with the subject's content," noted Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools. "The arts are an essential component of a well-rounded curriculum. Creative expression supports teaching and learning as well as fosters a more confident and engaged student."

"This has been the best program and experience that I have had with my students in my 19 years teaching." -Stacy Martinez, teacher, School 5

"Preya has been given an opportunity to shine. This residency increased her self-esteem."

-Tenesha Perry-Harris, School 17

"I just wanted to tell you how much my students enjoyed participating in this arts program with Addie. This has been the best program and experience that I have had with my students in the 19 years teaching. I am definitely interested in working with Addie again in the future. Hopefully School 5 gets the grant again next year. Thank you again for this wonderful program."

- Stacey Martinez, School 5

"Zoe has gained more confidence in using her own imagination. This is the program she needed... It helped strengthen her fine motor skills."

-Mary Trausnek-Flower, School 24

It was a wonderful opportunity for myself and the students to explore these subjects through art. I hope to have the opportunity again.

-Mary Trausneck- Flower, School 24

It's amazing to see how the arts can bring the curriculum being taught in the classroom to life"

- Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester

"You can see by the smiles on their faces...how proud they were of themselves."

- Jeannine Kocher, Casimir Pulaski

"We wanted to thank ArtsWestchester for the generous grant from the NYS Ed Dpt. The students were abundantly blessed by it. Thank you for the artist residency, the materials purchased and the important trip to the theater that the students were able to experience; for many of them it was their first exposure to live theater with singing and dancing."

-Wendy Holibaugh, Saunders High School

Student Feedback

I learned that art is a good thing to do when you are mad or upset."

-Student, Riverside HS

"What I learned about art while working with my visiting artist was that art helps you express yourself, you could express the way you are feeling."

"It helped me with math because it showed me how to calculate specific measures so I can make the picture the best I can."

"Thank you for coming to my sixth grade classroom. I've never read some of these fables but now I have learned new morals for life."

-Mike, Pulaski School

"Thank you so much for the awesome experience of making my own mural....I saw you help others paint the murals, I was absolutely amazed by the work. You are a Fantastic artist and I had a great experience with you and I am truly grateful that I got to meet you. I just can't possibly say how grateful I am in one essay or card/letter and I just want you to understand that you are a wonderful artist."

-Alyssa

"I learned how to take photos with people in motion. We had people run and we followed them with a camera then snapped a picture. It was really fun! I would like this workshop again because it was fun and energizing". -Student, School 17

"Jeremi spoke very little English and kept to himself. Mr. Rizzo took him...under his wing. Jeremi can now communicate with his peers better.

- Student, School 17

"Now when I grow up I want to be a photographer and I wish the classes were year round."

– Student, School 17

"Before I was a caterpillar but now I sprung into a butterfly. From this experience, I learned that art isn't just paint on a canvas it's how you express your feelings."

–Student, Casimir Pulaski School

"Zane, a student who normally does not excel in the arts took a particular interest in the project and took on a real leadership role."

- Jeannine Kocher, Casimir Pulaski

"Thank you for working with me and being so kind to me. Saying that my art is good makes me feel happy, very happy."

- Jakyah, School 9

"Thank you for giving us the trip. It was an amazing day."

-Student, School 17

Mt. Vernon

"The arts residency was designed to enhance the language arts/science instruction taking place in the classroom. My students were transported to the habitats they were studying through sounds, drums, and movement...This was a great experience for me and my children...I will be able to implement some of the arts integration strategies myself going forward."

“...These [professional development] workshops expand my knowledge of resources and bring a new light to my lessons! Thank you!”

- Teacher, Grade 1/2, Graham Elementary School

“Prior to this residency, Sam (name changed) was not interested in doing math...when we began the residency, it was like the light bulb went off and he was completely engaged.”

- Ms. Ciccone, Grade 1

“[An] excellent and motivating experience!”

- Ms. Celzo

“Aaron (name changed), a student with behavioral and authoritative difficulties, had difficulty responding to new adults. Mrs. Skura...[built] a positive, trusting relationship with [him]. Aaron made gains in terms of his positive behavior with an adult...Mrs. Skura... was wonderful with him!”

“The residency opened a whole new experience about theater to the students. For many it was their first time being in a play...Students have put meaning to the subject matter and I have overheard conversations about what we studied...[the residency] brought out the best in my most challenging students...[and] put real meaning to the rigorous curriculum”

-2nd Grade teacher, Grimes Elementary School, ELA and Theater Residency, Greek Mythology

“I can see integrating using clay to make models that will enhance the teaching of science, social studies (lessons on culture) and to facilitate instruction of colonial times in the ELA module.”

-Teacher, Grade 4, Turner (Longfellow) Elementary School

“I applaud the Mount Vernon City School District and ArtsWestchester for their continuing efforts to use the arts as a means of educating our students.”

-Congressman Eliot Engel, New York’s 16th Congressional District