

September 27, 2016

Arts Team Actions for the Fall

Becoming an Arts Team
Coordinator

Arts 21st Century
Assessments

Summer Arts Partner Institute

Resources

**THE CREATIVE
ADVANTAGE**
ARTS EDUCATION NOW. INNOVATIVE MINDS TOMORROW.

South-Southwest Arts Teams Newsletter

Meet the New South-Southwest Music Teachers...

Anne Uimonen

Teaching music at Arbor Heights & West
Seattle Elementary

Anne Uimonen believes every child is a musician. In her 20+ years as a music specialist she cultivates independence and creativity in students that prepares them for a lifetime engagement in music. Anne has ELL and bilingual endorsements and was an English Language Learner herself - speaking Swedish, Finnish, and English. Anne focuses on the social and emotional well-being of students and has a passion for students from various cultural backgrounds. She has a "belief that every single child is capable of becoming a proficient musician, with the end result of the student(s) taking charge of their own learning.



Anne Uimonen

Jessica Staire

Teaching music at Concord International
Elementary, Roxhill Elementary, & Sanislo
Elementary

Jessica Staire is joining
SPS after three years
teaching K-12 music in the

Creative Advantage This Month:

Fall Activities for South- Southwest Arts Teams

As we all get settled into the new school year, it's a great time for school arts teams to get started on implementing the awesome arts plans that you created last spring.

Here are some actions to get you started
this fall:

- **Principals**, update your arts teams with new members - replace teachers, parents and community members who have left the school since last year.
- **Arts teams**, select an arts team coordinator for the year. More details on this position in the story below.
- **Principal or coordinator**, schedule arts team meetings for the year
- **All**, share the arts vision and action plan at staff meeting
- **All**, please complete this [Doodle Poll](#) to schedule the November Arts Team Forum. The forum will be a 90-minute afternoon or evening meeting similar to the one many of you attended last January at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center.

Dominican Republic. She has taught bilingual classes in Spanish and English and communicates fluidly in in both languages with students, staff, and families. Originally from Illinois, Jessica graduated summa cum laude from Millikin University in Vocal Music Education. She has led a variety of ensembles, including Orff ensembles and recorder choirs, as well as elementary, middle school and high school choirs. Jessica focuses on the importance of music in language acquisition and specializes in a multi-cultural approach to music education.



Jessica Staire

Chris Bull

Teaching music at Highland Park Elementary

Cliff Bull came to Seattle from Wenatchee, Washington where he taught music. He is excited to be teaching music at Highland Park. He knows many fun camp and multi-cultural songs to enhance students' learning. He will be incorporating the school's new pitch and rhythm instruments into his music instruction. Cultural dances and movement to augment the music classroom experience will also be taught. Music will be a fun educational learning time here at Highland Park Elementary!



Chris Bull

CONNECT

As you implement your school arts plans, here are a few websites and people you can look to for help:

Consider Being Your Arts Team's Coordinator

Arts Team Coordinators act as a liaison to the Creative Advantage staff at the District and the Office of Arts and Culture. They also coordinate arts partnerships with school staff and schedule and help the school leader facilitate arts team meetings. We have applied for a grant so that we can provide stipends for the extra time that this position requires. If you are SPS staff and interested in this position, please let your principal know.

21ST CENTURY ARTS COMMON ASSESSMENTS

On August 29th, 151 teachers in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual art gathered to launch the **21st Century Arts Common Assessments**.

For five years, teachers have been working on curriculum that incorporates 21st century skills. This marks the achievement of one of our Creative Advantage goals: High quality arts instruction that teaches sequential arts skills and techniques, develops students' 21st century skills, and is culturally responsive. This year all arts teachers will bring these assessments into the classroom for engaging, student-centered arts making experiences.



Example of student art for Common Assessment in Visual Art

Why assess students in the arts?

Student Learning: These assessments teach and assess what's most important in the arts and 21st century skills - creativity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, growth mindset, and perseverance-what we want students to be like. We are intentionally teaching these habits so that students can transfer them to other areas of school and life; to give them practice with competencies that are needed in today's creative economy.

Teacher Practice: These have been written by teachers for teachers. They have been tested over 3 years to ensure quality and flexibility. They provide a way for teachers to come together talk about how students are doing and how to improve their practice.

[Sign up for the Creative Advantage South-Southwest newsletter](#)

[The Creative Advantage Website](#)

[The Community Arts Partner Roster](#) is a vetted list of teaching artists and community arts and culture organizations approved to work in Seattle Public Schools through the Creative Advantage.

SPS' [Visual and Performing Arts website](#)

Here you can find an overview of the Creative Advantage as well as resources related to the Naramore student art show, summer music, and for teachers, arts curriculum maps and cornerstone assessments.

If you can't find what you need on-line, contact Creative Advantage staff:

[Audrey Querns](#)-SPS project manager for Creative Advantage (*for questions about arts teams and planning, arts partner logistics like contracts and funding*)

[Lara Davis](#)-Seattle Office of Arts and Culture Arts Education Manager (*for questions about the Arts Partner Roster and working with teaching artists and arts organizations*)

[Gail Sehlhorst](#)-SPS Visual and Performing Arts Manager (*for questions about arts staffing, curriculum and assessment*)



Common Assessment Writing Team

Quality & Equity: To align our teaching so that no matter where a student lives, they can be guaranteed the same quality and experience as any other neighborhood in the district.

The Creative Advantage Arts Partner Summer Institute

The Creative Advantage kicked off the 2016-17 school year with its third annual Summer Institute in partnership with Seattle Art Museum. Over 100 teaching artists, administrators, classroom teachers, and youth development workers gathered for a day of learning, community building, and practice. Sessions were facilitated by local artists, instructors, and national partners with topics ranging from Healing Justice in Arts Education (inspired by the work of Shawn Ginwright), [The Entrepreneurial Teaching Artist](#), to [Trauma-Informed Practice](#). Participants also had opportunities to creatively engage and reflect by art discipline.



Photo by Jenny Crooks

The morning plenary centered the role of racial equity and social justice in curriculum and approach. This included a deeply moving poem on structural barriers within education by Carlynn Newsome the 2016 Youth Speaks Seattle grand slam champion, followed by music and a story from Shontina Vernon, a mentor teaching artist with 4Culture's Creative Justice program. Robyne Walker Murphy, Cultural Access Program Director at Cool Culture in Brooklyn, gave a stirring keynote entitled, "Empower, Create Connect: A Framework for Liberatory Education."

The institute put front and center the values of practitioners working for creativity and justice in education, calling for narratives that position student voice and perspective as fundamental to high quality teaching and learning.

Next up: The Creative Advantage Professional Learning Series, beginning in January 2017. For more information, [sign up here](#)

[sign up here.](#)

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