



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION

DIVISION OF
LEARNING SERVICES

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Subject: Message #153: Theatre in Every Classroom Professional Development Opportunity

Date: May 30, 2018

To: ccss@list.state.ar.us

From: Arkansas Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction Unit

Dear Arkansas Educators,

Theatre in Every Classroom is a professional development opportunity for classroom teachers of any content area or grade level who wish to get their students on their feet and excited about learning. Presenter of both sessions, Hannah Sawyer, has taught theatre for fourteen years, currently at Little Rock Central High School, is a member of the Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association, and performs and directs on a variety of community theater stages in central Arkansas.

The sessions will be offered at selected co-ops, and registration is available through escWorks (search 'All' co-ops and enter 'Theatre in Every Classroom'). For LRSD and PCSSD teachers, a session will be presented at Maumelle High School. LRSD Teachers should register through the LRSD PD registration page and PCSSD should follow registration instructions on the 2018 PCSSD Summer Professional Development Calendar. The six-hour workshop is designed as two consecutive three-hour blocks to be taken together or separately based on the individual teacher's needs.

Theatre in Every Classroom: Theatre Games

(Morning: 3 hours)

Theatre can be a powerful tool when used to engage students in any lesson. It teaches speaking and language skills, encourages students to develop new perspectives, and allows them to demonstrate deeper understanding of subject matter. This three-hour workshop will offer K-12 teachers a variety of theatre strategies adaptable for any classroom or content area. Even "non-drama" teachers will be able to use these simple theatre games to get students on their feet for learning, and current theatre teachers will pick up some new techniques to share with colleagues.

Theatre in Every Classroom: A Toolkit

(Afternoon: 3 hours)

Any teacher with an interest in theatre integration, implementing theatre course offerings, or starting a new theatre program will take away from this session a toolkit that will help accomplish that goal. An update on the status of theatre education in Arkansas and the role theatre plays in the fine arts requirements of Arkansas's Standards of Accreditation will be provided. The experiences of Arkansas teachers who have built successful programs will be shared, and discussion will include suggestions such as these:

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.





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- justifying the establishment of a new theater or dance program, including using it as a means of accomplishing the district's Title I/ESSA plan goals (student learning, school culture, student engagement, parental involvement)
 - collaborating with community organizations, civic clubs, or businesses
 - producing a school play on a tight budget
 - establishing after-school theater programs
 - hosting or participating in a one-act playwriting or production contest, speech and drama tournament, Poetry Out Loud or other events
 - taking advantage of Arkansas Arts Council Arts in Education roster and grant programs

Please share this information with others that might be interested. Thank you for serving the students of Arkansas.

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