

2026-27 Classroom Arts Mission Manual

A Teacher's Guide to North Alabama Creative Learning Opportunities



CREATIVE

LAUNCHPAD

POWERED BY ARTS HUNTSVILLE



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WELCOME

Creative Launchpad is excited to present the 2026-2027 Mission Manual, a guide to opportunities in the arts for teachers. This publication includes information about teaching artists and arts organizations that offer programs in visual and performing arts.

Activities are available for students from P-12 and are identified by the type of experience they provide (Exposure, Enhancement, Integration, or Competition).

We hope that you will find this booklet useful as you plan meaningful, rigorous, and enjoyable arts education experiences for your students this year.



BADGE KEY

This guide provides a system of badges that will allow you to make appropriate programming choices for your classroom needs. These badges are displayed at the beginning of each section.

CONTENTS

5-6 ARTS INTEGRATION



Students engage in a creative process which connects an art form and another subject area during the regular school day. This results in the attainment of specific learning goals and objectives in both subject areas.

5-6 ARTS EXPOSURE



Students are exposed to the arts through sponsored performances and/or field trips. Schools are offered study guides and other resources to supplement exposure activities.

7 ARTS ENHANCEMENT



Students participate in arts activities and receive instruction for a brief period during the regular school day. The result is deeper understanding and appreciation of the art form.

7 ARTS COMPETITIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS



Students are given the opportunity to compete and be recognized for excellence in the arts.



ARTS INTEGRATION

CREATIVE LAUNCHPAD MISSION AI

This program pairs teaching artists with classroom teachers to create curricula that enhances and deepens student learning in a core subject area and an arts discipline. Partnerships last 4 to 6 weeks and can be adapted to meet the school's needs.

GRADES: K-8

ARTS ON THE MOVE

This program pairs teaching artists with physical education teachers by using a cross-curricular approach to arts learning. Matching theatre and dance standards with their counterparts in PE, students receive both physical and arts education that will leave them wanting to get up and move. Partnerships last 9 weeks per semester and can be adapted to meet the school's needs. **GRADES:** K-3

CREATIVE SCHOOLS TRAINING

A teacher-minded focus that brings professional development and arts instructional support to core classroom teachers. In collaboration with Mindpop, teaching facilitators provide standards and evidence-based training that uses arts learning in an approach that gives teachers a more robust set of tools. Multiple PD sessions available, and courses can be designed to fit your school's needs.

CONTACT: artsed@artshuntsville.org or visit www.artshuntsville.org

HUNTSVILLE BALLET COMPANY DISCOVER DANCE OUTREACH and EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

Classes and residencies incorporating kinesthetic learning and dance into the academic curriculum. Books and Ballet offers creative movement story-times, while STEAM residencies use dance to explore the science curriculum. Moving Classroom performances featuring HBC professional dancers share audience-participatory activities based on K-5 science lessons. **GRADES:** K-5 **COST:** Free

CONTACT: cathycurry@huntsvilleballet.org

HUNTSVILLE BALLET COMPANY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Arts integration workshops available throughout the year for teachers and administrators. These highly renowned programs provide strategies for integrating dance and kinesthetic learning into academic standards. **COST:** Free

CONTACT: cathycurry@huntsvilleballet.org or visit www.huntsvilleballet.org

FANTASY PLAYHOUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A one-time workshop to help your team build cohesion and execute collaborative learning goals.

AGES: 12-Adult **COST:** Varies

CONTACT: Education@FantasyPlayhouse.com



ARTS INTEGRATION

JESSICA NUNNO

Art History Trading Cards

Students will study four art periods in history, select and research an artist from each period, and create a card with the artist's picture and facts about their life and work. Cards will be copied, and each student will receive a set. **GRADES:** 4-8 (4 classes)

Design a Character

Students will integrate literacy and creative writing with art to create their very own cartoon character. They will learn to draw their character and use literacy and creative writing skills to create a backstory. **GRADES:** 4-8 (4 classes)

Comic Book Creator

Students will integrate literacy and creative writing skills to create a story with a beginning, middle and an end. They will learn to draw and pose a simple character. At the end of the course, they will have an original comic book story. (Recommended after completing Design a Character)

GRADES: 4-8 (6 classes)

Ink Blot Monsters

Students create abstract ink blots and use creativity and art materials to turn them into monsters. This can be used to address writing standards with students creating a story about their monster.

GRADES: 2-4 (1 class)

CLASSES COST: \$125-150 each plus materials

CONTACT: jessicanunnoart@gmail.com

MICROWAVE DAVE MUSIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION

CONCERTS IN THE CLASSROOM

Local musicians work with classroom teachers to develop lesson plans integrating music with appropriate academic standards.

GRADES: K-12 **COST:** Free

CONTACT: Evan Billiter at educate@microwavedavemef.com or visit www.microwavedavemef.org

MAITLAND CONSERVATORY ARTS TECHNOLOGY

In this program, students learn podcasting, video editing, songwriting, and how to create music digitally. The program incorporates ELA, science, and STEM standards.

GRADES: 4-12 **COST:** Varies

CONTACT: info@themaitlandconservatory.org or visit www.themaitlandconservatory.org



ARTS EXPOSURE

AROUND THE CURTAIN CHILDREN'S THEATRE FIELD TRIPS

My 3 Angels - December 18, 2026 at 10:00 am **GRADES:**
Upper middle & High School

Alice in Wonderland - March 5, 2027 at 10:00 am **Grades:** All
Grades (performers are 8th and under)

A Murder is Announced - April 30, 2027 at 10:00 am **Grades:**
Upper middle & high school

COST: \$10 per person **CONTACT:** Audry Creel, Docent/Tour
Programs coordinator at acreel@hsvmuseum.org or visit
www.hsvmuseum.org

BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE FIELD TRIPS

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, the Musical - This iconic
alphabet adventure is loved by generations of families and
teachers. When the letters race up the coconut tree, chaos,
comedy, & rhythm take over the stage. **GRADES:** K-6

DATES: Oct. 22, 2026 at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm Schools; 6:30
pm Community show

COST: Free, reservations required

ERTH'S Shark Dive - Presented as a live poetic
documentary, the exquisite puppets will enchant, delight, &
challenge you to reconsider our own role in protecting these
maligned magnificent creatures. **GRADES:** 1-12 **DATES:** April
1, 2027 at 9:30 am and 12:30 pm Schools; 6:30 pm

Community show **COST:** Free, reservations required

CONTACT: Visit www.broadwaytheatreleague.org or contact
David Herriot at david@broadwaytheatreleague.org. Study
guides and classroom preview visits are encouraged.

HUNTSVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERTS

HSO, in conjunction with the HSO Guild, presents: **The Story
of Babar**. **GRADE:** 4 **COST:** Free **DATES:** Feb. 25 at 9:30 am &
Feb. 26, 2027 at 9:30 am and 12:00 pm **RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED** **CONTACT:** ypconcerts@hsoguild.org or visit
www.hso.org

BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Friday, Nov. 6, 2026 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Burritt on the Mountain hosts guest presenters and
demonstrators sharing folklife of our region. Students
experience and learn about the music, arts, crafts, and skills
of Appalachia in a fun-filled day visiting approximately 20
different learning stations that include skills such as
blacksmithing, weaving, printmaking, open hearth cooking,
woodworking, and many more. **GRADES:** K-8 **COST:** \$12 per
student (Reduced rates available for Title 1 schools.)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

BURRITT ON THE MOUNTAIN SPRING FARM DAYS

April 8 & 9, 2027, 9:00 am – 1:30 pm.

Spring is an exciting time to visit Burritt's barnyard animals,
experience historic skills and chores of our ancestors, and
learn about life on the farm. Students will see
demonstrations of traditional crafts and enjoy some hands-
on participation in daily chores like butter churning and
mattress stuffing.

GRADES: K-8 **COST:** \$12 per student (Reduced rates
available for Title 1 schools.)

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

CONTACT: BurrittRegistrar@huntsvilleal.gov
or 256-536-2882

HUNTSVILLE BALLET PRESENTS THE NUTCRACKER

Huntsville Ballet Company offers low-cost field
trips that allow elementary students to
experience the magic of this holiday ballet. Study guides
connecting the performance to the
academic curriculum are provided.

GRADES: K-5, **COST:** \$5 **CONTACT:** Cathy Curry at
cathycurry@huntsvilleballet.org



ARTS EXPOSURE

FANTASY PLAYHOUSE CHILDREN'S THEATER STUDENT MATINEES

***The Little Mermaid* - adaptation by Stephen Tyler Davis** - Sept. 24 & 25, 2026 at 10:00 am in FPCTA Theater on the Boulevard. **Grades:** K-6

***Shakespeare in Love & War*, in partnership with Alabama A&M University** - September 30, 2026 at 9:30 am at FPCTA Theater on the Boulevard. **Grades:** 3-12

A Not So Scary Christmas Carol - December 9, 2026 at 9:30 am and 11:00 am, in the VBC Playhouse. **Grades:** PreK-3

***A Christmas Carol*, adaptation by Cherie Evans** - Dec. 10 & 11, 2026 at 10:00 am in the VBC Playhouse. **Grades:** 5-12

***Schoolhouse Funk*, in Partnership with Alabama A&M University** - Feb 7, 2027 at 9:30 am in FPCTA Theater on the Boulevard. **Grades:** K-6

***The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe*, Adapted by Don Quinn** - March 4 & 5, 2027 at 10:00 am in FPCTA Theater on the Boulevard. **Grades:** 3-12

All productions have study guides that support core standards. **COST:** FPCTA Theater on the Boulevard: \$12 per student (Standard), \$10 per student (Title 1 Rate). VBC Playhouse: \$15 per student (Standard), \$12 per student (Title 1 Rate)

CONTACT: FieldTrips@fantasyplayhouse.com for information.

HUNTSVILLE MUSEUM OF ART FIELD TRIPS

School tour groups of 10 or more may choose between an exhibition specific or thematic docent-led tour or a Highlights docent-led tour of all HMA exhibitions. Tours are designed using the Alabama Course of Study for Arts Education as a framework. **GRADES:** K-12 **COST:** \$5 per person (Art add-on cost: \$3 per student) **CONTACT:** Audry Creel at acreel@hsvmuseum.org or www.hsvmuseum.org

OPERA HUNTSVILLE IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCES

Little Red's Most Unusual Day - An operatic version of *Little Red Riding Hood* set to music by Rossini and Offenbach (Length: 45 minutes)

GRADES: PreK-5, **COST:** \$500 but open to all budgets

CONTACT: info@operahuntsville.org

THE WEEDEN HOUSE MUSEUM FIELD TRIP

The tour begins with a brief history of the home and current events of the time. Students learn how the residents lived prior to modern conveniences. They also learn about Howard Weeden's paintings and poems. The tour also includes a scavenger hunt and refreshments.

GRADES: 2-6, **COST:** \$3 per student

CONTACT: theweedenhouse@att.net or visit www.weedenhousemuseum.com

ROCKET CITY BALLET SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

Giselle - April 16, 2027 at the Sandra Moon Performing Arts Center **GRADES:** 3-8 **COST:** \$5 per student (Fee waiver for Title 1 schools) **CONTACT:** Irodio@rockcityballet.org or visit www.rockcityballet.org

THE SNAIL ON THE WALL

This local independent bookstore will partner with schools and other organizations to host events and programming related to books, reading, and literacy. They can arrange a meet and greet with a well-known author. They also host book fairs and pop-up stores to bring books directly to your students. **GRADES:** PreK-12, **COST:** Varies (Author events are often free; bulk book discounts are available for classrooms and organizations)

CONTACT: Lady Smith at lady@snailonthewall.com, 256-212-0011, or visit during store hours at 816 Wellman Ave, 35801



ARTS ENHANCEMENT

FANTASY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE ARTS WORKSHOPS & FIELD TRIPS

FPCTA offers customizable workshops and daytime field trip opportunities. Areas of focus include acting, musical theatre, technical theatre, improv, and leadership/team development.

CONTACT: education@fantasyplayhouse.com or visit www.fantasyplayhouse.com

HUNTSVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN PROGRAM (10 lessons) HSO's Third Grade Violin Program offers students a unique, hands-on introduction to classical music through the study of the violin. HSO provides a professional instructor, student-sized violins, and instructional materials. The course concludes with a class recital. Lessons align with national and state standards in music and other core subject areas.

GRADE: 3 **COST:** Free **CONTACT:** Sharon Hicks sharon@hso.org or visit www.hso.org



ARTS COMPETITIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

DANNY HALL MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Microwave Dave Music Education Foundation offers scholarships to four young musicians each year. The scholarship pays for one year of music lessons at one of four different music schools.

CONTACT: Jessica Bolling at scholarships@microwavedavemef.org or visit www.microwavedavemef.org

HUNTSVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA YOUNG ARTIST AUDITIONS

This competition gives students an opportunity to perform in a public forum and recognizes dedicated young musicians for their talent and accomplishments.

CONTACT: Sharon Hicks at sharon@hso.org or visit www.hso.org

HUNTSVILLE MUSIC STUDY CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS

The Huntsville Music Study Club awards scholarships to high school students in voice, piano, wind instruments, and strings. Auditions will be held in the spring of 2026.

CONTACT: Jenny Jacks at jacksj1972@gmail.com

