



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF THE ARTS

PAM BREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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Jacques Berry
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
jberry@crt.la.gov
225.342.8601

ARTS INTEGRATION IN SCHOOLS TO REFORM EDUCATION
PILOT PROGRAM THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne is announcing Forest Heights Academy of Excellence in Baton Rouge as the first school to complete year 1 of the Imagination, Creativity and Innovation pilot program. ICI is an initiative being piloted in eight schools throughout Louisiana. Participating schools are receiving support to integrate the arts into curriculum including a two-week artist residency which places a professional theater artist in the classroom to demonstrate teaching opportunities by integrating theater with English language arts.

“The artist gave my children and me tools to use in the classroom—body, voice, imagination, concentration and collaboration,” Cassidy Dickinson, third-grade teacher at Forest Heights Academy of Excellence, said. “She also helped them identify the components of an imaginative narrative and encouraged them to use adjectives.”

In ICI schools the process of creating, performing and responding to art is used to increase student achievement, increase attendance by students and staff, lower rates of retention, raise self-esteem, decrease discipline problems, encourage greater parent participation and grow a sense of community.

Schools were selected through a competitive process. The following schools are participating in the ICI pilot program:

Alice N. Boucher World Languages Academy, Lafayette
Martin Behrman Elementary School, New Orleans
Charles M. Burke Elementary School, Duson
Capitol Elementary School, Baton Rouge
Claiborne Fundamental Elementary School, Shreveport
Forest Heights Academy of Excellence, Baton Rouge
Langston Hughes Academy, New Orleans
Natchitoches Magnet School, Natchitoches

ICI is an initiative of the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Division of the Arts as part of a broad effort to build the capacity of educators to use child-centered, experiential, arts-integrated teaching and learning to foster student success. KID smART, a nonprofit arts organization located in New Orleans, is administering the ICI Initiative.

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