

Inside the Lines

3 Ways to Increase Creativity in the Classroom



The best educators make learning fun. They get kids leaping out of bed to head off to school.



In their eyes, Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year 2015 nominee Dahlia Jessen's third-grade class, has "the best teacher at Elm Tree Elementary... or the world!"

Our founders knew not all learning occurs in a classroom. They designed the Crayola crayon and other products as multipurpose, with both entertainment and educational value...but the crayon has a reputation as more of a party animal than a study buddy. We want to change that. This blog post lays out three ways to combine creation and education in your classroom.

1. Get That Grant.



Two thumbs up to these Lehigh Valley Elementary teachers, whose school received a CCAC grant in 2015.

[Multiple studies](#) show the value of arts-based literacy programs for elementary and middle-school students. Benefits include:

- Increased student attendance
- Higher test scores
- Increased parent participation in children's learning
- More qualified teachers.

Research also shows that the design of arts-based literacy programs makes them an effective tool to further develop the reading and writing skills of children with learning disabilities.

Based on these results, we believe every school should have an arts-based literacy program because of the incredible change they bring about in children's lives. As a way of participating in the process, we teamed up with the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#) (NAESP) to create our own: [Championing Creatively Alive Children](#).

Through the [CCAC grant program](#), up to 20 schools receive \$2,500 in cash and \$1,000 in Crayola products to start a confidence-building, creativity-enhancing, leadership program.

Emerson Elementary in Boston, Mass. used their grant money to put in a new playground; just imagine how your school could benefit.



Apply now - the deadline for this competitive program ends June 20, 2016.

2. Learn Your Lessons Well.



Stella Daniels, who teaches history at Aaron Burr Middle School in Weehawken, NJ, does some light reading in preparation for class.

Teachers can subscribe to a [monthly free e-newsletter of arts-related lesson plans](#) which comes monthly and also access the online database of [free lesson plans](#). With age-appropriate lessons in [Language Arts](#), [Math](#), [Science](#), [Ecology](#), [Technology](#), [Social Studies](#), and [Visual Arts](#) for preschool-age children to high school seniors, it guides teachers wanting to teach a subject in a hands-on, creative, way.

3. Pin it.



Technophile teachers can subscribe to our lesson plan Pinterest boards, which currently have lesson plans in the following subjects:

- [Language Arts](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Math](#)

The [Crayola Pinterest account](#) also has [seasonal](#) and [holiday](#) craft tutorial boards appropriate for younger students - and everyone can benefit from a little [homework help](#) or de-stress with [free coloring pages](#)!

So, if you want to get your craft on in your classroom while still expanding your students' minds, do it the Crayola way! Check out www.crayola.com for these resources and more!

Sources

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