**2015 Academy Select Participant Comments**

I have been challenged beyond what I thought I could do, and then given the tools to meet that challenge and help my students as performers and people.

Braden Bell, Middle TN Music, Drama/Theatre, & Administrator-Trio Track

Absolutely awe inspiring, fun, exciting, and invigorating.

Lisa L. Hill, East TN Visual Art Teacher

The Tennessee Arts Academy is amazing! I leave inspired and the best part is knowing how much my children (students) will gain from this!

Allison Bush, Middle TN Music Teacher

I am so inspired! Thank you for giving me tools to make me excited about the coming year.

Jessica Strutz, East TN Theatre Teacher

Fantastic! Awesome! Magical!

Amy Oliver, Middle TN Music Teacher

This has been the highlight of my summer! I have never felt so very valued as an arts teacher! I will be back next year!

Becky Phelps, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

Amazing, paradigm shifting professional development !!!

Lisa Russell, East TN Music Teacher

This was one of the greatest learning and growing experiences of my life! Big Tone. I make the ground shake.

West TN Music Teacher

My first experience, and I have been in Heaven!

Michael Eggers, East TN Theatre Teacher

I am energized, focused, and fulfilled. I am ready to start the school year compelled to feed my students with the knowledge I have acquired at T.A.A. 2015. Thank you! ☺

Amy Oliver, Middle TN Music Teacher

Absolutely transformative.

West TN Theatre Teacher

Any teacher looking to be inspired to be a better teacher should come to this conference. This was truly an amazing experience, and made me excited about teaching again.

Tasha Holmes, West TN Classroom Teacher in Theatre Track

45 years of TEACHING! No better opportunity for professional enrichment!

Bill Shinn, East TN Visual Art Teacher

Thank you sooo much for offering this. As an arts teacher, it can feel like you are the only one in your county. It was great to get together with so many like-minded teachers.

Rachel Verdon, Middle TN Music Teacher

I couldn’t have been more pleased if I’d won a Disney Cruise. Fabulous!

Mary Ann Poplin, East TN Visual Art Teacher

TAA is an over the top, amazing week of creative, inspirational fine arts magic!

Beth Affollter, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

One week at the Tennessee Arts Academy fuels me in my classroom for an entire year!

Gina Kelley, Middle TN Theatre Teacher

When I leave here, my feet hurt but my heart sings!

East TN Visual Art Teacher

An inspiring, invigorating week in which my creative soul was fed a 4 course meal.

Barbara G. Johnson, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

The TAA is the one place where I truly feel appreciated for, and honored by what I do on a daily basis!

Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

I don’t know if I could get through the next school year without TAA!

Michelle Tripp, Middle TN Theatre Teacher

It was a great experience and I am so excited to teach again.

East TN Visual Art Teacher

This experience has been enlightening, and I cannot wait to share what I’ve learned with others from my school.

Middle TN Theatre Teacher

TAA has renewed my desire to teach and renewed my creative juices.

Middle TN Theatre Teacher

I could not advocate attending TAA enough!!!  
 Angela Beale, Middle TN Classroom Teacher in Arts Leadership Track

I always leave feeling better than when I arrived.  
 East TN Music Teacher in Arts Leadership Track

I feel so much more prepared to teach. I will be going into my first year and the support I found here was overwhelming.

Middle TN Music Teacher in Trio Track

A great launch into the coming school year.

Beth B. Smith, East TN Visual Art Teacher

This experience has been enlightening, and I cannot wait to share what I’ve learned with others from my school.

Middle TN Theatre Teacher

It was wonderful, and I’m refreshed for a new school year!

Tristessa L. Howard, East TN Visual Art Teacher

As I always say – even though I was exhausted – I can’t imagine a summer without attending the Academy!

Elizabeth M. Perthel, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

I am so inspired to get into the classroom and BLOWN AWAY by the talent of my fellow visual art teachers.

Melanie Hill-Guion, Middle TN Art Student at TSU

I feel more empowered, excited, inspired and hopeful than ever about teaching!

Middle TN Classroom Teacher in Theatre Track

Best week of the year!!!

Shelly Russell, West TN Classroom Teacher in Theatre Track

I was over -the-moon impressed with my week at TN Arts Academy.

Holly Todd, West TN Theatre Teacher

Uplifting, inspiring, rejuvenating, a pep rally for the Arts.

Nancy Beard, West TN Theatre Teacher

This week saved my teaching career. I needed the refresh and enthusiasm that only a TAA week can give you.

Middle TN Theatre Teacher

This year the Arts Academy had a double purpose for me. First and foremost to learn new techniques and ways to motivate my students. The other purpose was very personal. I spent a week reflecting on life and doing something for me. It has been very liberating.

Patricia Suzanne Binkley, East TN Music Teacher

This has been an incredible experience with so much information that will benefit my program and my students.

East TN Music Teacher

I love the TAA experience. During the school year, I feel very isolated. This week feeds my musical side and refreshes me.

Kimberly Witz, East TN Music Teacher

This was my first time at TAA and I was totally blown away! There was no stone left unturned!

Emily Brown, West TN Music Teacher

Another amazing Academy week that has reminded me why I love what I do.

M. Jennifer Burton, Middle TN Music Teacher

It was the best professional development I’ve ever had in 13 years of teaching.

West TN Music Teacher

This week made me fall in love with music, the arts, and teaching all over again.

Middle TN Music Teacher

TAA is not just fun it is necessary!

Brenda Swinson, East TN Music Teacher

This experience is so much more than just learning to be better teachers! It is spiritual!

East TN Music Teacher

Thank you so much for providing inspiration as well as professional development. Truly an experience like no other!

Christy Bock, East TN Music Teacher

This was fantastic! I can’t wait to get back and use what I’ve learned in my classroom. This has been the perfect inspiration to prepare me to start another school year.

East TN Music Teacher

I am once again pumped up to begin my next teaching year.

East TN Music Teacher

This experience has given me the inspiration and motivation to go into a new school year.

Emma Litton, Middle TN Music Teacher

This has been a great week of learning new techniques and material for teaching in a way that fosters more creativity from the students through the arts!

Amy Tripp, Middle TN Music Teacher

This Academy is the best professional development opportunity that I have ever attended. Thank you!

Lynn Jung, Middle TN Music Teacher

I absolutely feel so blessed to have the opportunity to attend TAA every year and hope to always receive this blessed opportunity! Forever Changed!

Middle TN Music Teacher

Thank you for providing such an inspiring, life-altering, profession developing, and wonderfully crafted, Arts Academy!

Same Middle TN Music Teacher

It is nice to collaborate and recharge batteries – Thank you!! ☺

Stella McKnight, Middle TN Music Teacher

Thank you for making arts educators feel so valued! There are so many experiences that inspire attendees to believe in what they teach.

Middle TN Music Teacher

This is the most useful, inspirational, encouraging, and content appropriate in-service. It’s well worth the drive!

West TN Visual Art Teacher

There is no better arts ed PD option in the nation that so well incorporates craft, content, policy, and inspiration.  
 Jeff Myrick, Middle TN Music Teacher in Arts Leadership Track

This is a well-oiled PD Machine!  
 Atticus Hensley, Middle TN Music Teacher in Arts Leadership Track

I have thoroughly enjoyed the Academy. I’m taking away so much information that I honestly hadn’t give thought to. I’m much more prepared to advocate for the Arts.

Michelle Mason Johnson, West TN Music Teacher-Arts Leadership Track

TAA was an enlightening and truly exceptional educational experience.

Lalania Vaughn, West TN Music and Drama/Theatre Teacher-Trio Track

TAA served to strengthen my scaffolding and renewed my heart and soul for continued teaching.

East TN Music Teacher in Trio Track

Thank you to all who helped bring this together. This event has made me feel like an important person and profession.

Tristy Berryhill, East TN Visual Art Teacher

Lots of great ideas and opportunities to pick the brains of other art teachers.

Cheri Henderson, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

This has been a very inspirational week. The fellowship of artists has been a blessing for me.

Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

I am ready and inspired for the upcoming school year because of TAA!

Savannah Daigle Middle TN Theatre Teacher

You have done a wonderful job of finding compassionate inspiring faculty that make us feel valued.

Middle TN Theatre Teacher

This was the best year ever. I have a toolbox of higher level thinking activities to get started with – Thanks.

Francie Beard, West TN Music Teacher in the Theatre Track

It is wonderful to feel appreciated! Thank you!!!

Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

Arts Academy is a breath of fresh air.

Shelia Stubbs, Middle TN Visual Art Teacher

Thanks for supporting us teachers and rekindling my music fire! I indeed have been Blessed.

Bonnie Hammond, East TN Music Teacher

It is a very aesthetic; sensual; motivational; invigorating experience. It is so organized …

Joe Willson Sr., East TN Music Teacher

Such a privilege and find!!

Sarah Allen, East TN Music Teacher

Not only did I receive quality material, but I felt valued as a teacher.

Drew Givan, Middle TN Music Teacher

I feel this week taught me more ‘real world’ knowledge than four and a half years of college.

Febrienne Box, Middle TN Music Teacher

I can’t imagine my summer without attending TAA. It is my highlight and motivation for a new year.

Donna Browning, West TN Music Teacher