

## **Participant and Faculty Exit Evaluation Comments 2020 Tennessee Arts Academy**

### **TAA Participant Comments**

I cannot WAIT to take what I learned at TAA to my classroom - whether in person or virtual. Thank you - a million times - THANK YOU! - *Lauri Kaye Burns, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

The teaching was superb, incredibly practical and empowering - especially geared for the upcoming challenges. Thank you, - *Loyda Hjelte, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

BRAVO!! Best conference I have ever attended and in online format to boot!  
- *Texas, Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

This. Was. Just. What. I. Needed. As always, TAA, gets my mindset ready for school, but in this extraordinary year, I was able to ease out of the worry and unknown.....into the creative possibilities that this new year holds. - *Kami Lunsford, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

Great!! Learned so much!! Usable!! - *Alesia Rollins, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

I am encouraged, inspired, uplifted to new ideas and excited about the coming year - whether it is virtual or live. The Tennessee Arts Academy truly met all of my needs for enriched professional growth, especially during this very unusual year to come. - *Paula Threlkeld, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Trio Track*

I would recommend the Tennessee Arts Academy to everyone!  
- *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

The Tennessee Arts Academy is a place where outside the box thinkers can get together to rejuvenate their artistic souls. - *East TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

I believe it's essential to be a part of a larger community of arts educators. TAA really knocks it out of the ballpark! - *Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

I am leaving this year's Academy with renewed creative spark and yearning to share what I learned with my students. I will definitely be back! - *Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

Tennessee Arts Academy gave me just what I needed to feel refreshed and renewed in a way that makes me feel ready to face whatever will come my way in this school year.  
- *Cari Allen, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

This experience was life-changing. I am going to be a better teacher after this, because I have gained confidence and community in addition to practical specific skills that will make my art teaching and my students' learning more meaningful. Thank you thank you THANK YOU.  
- *Amy Duncan, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

In a year of so many unknowns, the magic of the Arts Academy came through the miles of fiber and hundreds of screens. Actually seeing this even happen digitally gives me hope for the year.  
- *Pollyanna Parker, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

THANK YOU for such a positive example of HOW TO DO IT WELL and with EXCELLENCE!  
- *Paula Goepfert, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

The 2020 Virtual Tennessee Arts Academy was enlightening and challenging with introspection and diversity. I was pleased to have great facilitators and guest speakers to lead the discussions which will be appropriate and useful for the upcoming school year.

- Sandra Page, Middle TN Arts Leadership and Administration – School Administration

Everything was fabulous!! The instructors were amazing!! The Musers were incredible!! And the evening with Aaron Lazar was AWESOME!!! - Julianna Smith, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art

I am always impressed at the level of professionalism TAA displays. The class instruction was spot on. I highly recommend TAA for new and veteran teachers.

- Lisa Bitzas, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music

I feel this experience really empowered me to hit the school year head on, regardless of what that may look like. - Francie Beard, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement

TAA was amazing! It was a week full of information and there was so much good information that my brain is so full of ideas now! Thank you so much for the experience.

- Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music

This was a wonderful experience that has given me great tools to use in the classroom. It has also fed my passion for the Arts and for teaching. - Caitlin Bonds, East TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art

I will certainly be using what I learned in my TAA classes for the rest of my teaching career!

- Cassidy Lenstrom, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music

There is no other professional development anywhere that gives me the resources for teaching and leading a quality theatre program than the Tennessee Arts Academy.

- Karen Dean, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre

The 2020 TN Arts Academy was outstanding! The entire team at TAA went above and beyond to make this experience the best it could possibly be and offered high quality Arts Education in these trying times.

BRAVO! - Amy Oliver, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music

### **TAA Faculty Comments**

The Tennessee Arts Academy is a fantastic program for educators. I hope it continues and flourishes!

- Elementary/Lower Middle Visual Art Faculty

I could not have asked for a better group of TAA participants and I'm finding myself ineffably inspired by what each of them do. - Upper Middle/Secondary Theatre Faculty

I was very impressed by the organization, coordination and choices made for every aspect of the Academy Program. - Upper Middle/Secondary Theatre Faculty

Bravo to all for an exceptional enterprise! - Upper Middle/Secondary Music Faculty

After 30 years of teaching, I have no recommendations for TAA except to say it is quality professional development. - Elementary/Lower Middle Visual Art Faculty

A significant strength of the Academy was the sense of community created... especially virtually.

Wonderful!!! - Upper Middle/Secondary Theatre Faculty

## Additional TAA Participant Comments

My instructors helped revive the artistic spark within me that had waned and caused it to ignite into an inferno! - *Debra Reed, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

I thought that it was very uplifting to hear from artists and hear the impact that educators have had on their lives. It was exactly what a lot of us needed, I believe.

- *Chelsea Antcliff, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

The Academy was brilliant, empowering and connecting for us in this strange time. It has made me feel much more prepared for the year ahead. - *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

The Tennessee Arts Academy served as a model for effective online arts instruction and as a model for how other organizations could structure online professional learning events.

- *West TN Arts Leadership and Administration – School Administration*

Our instructors, performers, and musers were exceptional morale builders and were especially inspiring during this crazy time in our world. - *Sara Layne, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

From this experience, I have taken away so many wonderful insights that I will continue to hold dear.

- *Amanda Holla, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

Overall, this is the best professional development I have ever attended.

- *Brooke Bowers, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

I was SO IMPRESSED with the caliber and variety of performers that contributed. It was truly a wonderful experience. I really felt the Academy fed me as both an artist and an educator.

- *Catherine Averitt, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

A-MA-ZING!!! - *Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

I have struggled since quarantine finding my passion for art and art making again, and an interlude plucked me up from that dark place and threw me back into the sun.

- *Angela Hallmark, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

I loved every interlude I attended! Each one was so informative!

- *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

Outstanding! I felt like I had exclusive tickets to something truly special. Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! - *Christi Watson, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

The Interlude presenters' passion for the work they do in the arts was contagious.

- *Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

Both of my core faculty members were AMAZING! They delivered information in different ways and I was able to see two different ways to deliver content to students. I loved every minute of each session from both of them. - *Rebekah Sargent, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

Great job TAA! - *Pamela Cosner, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

I had lost hope of doing anything productive and meaningful this fall--I feel I now have some tools and tricks that will work! - *Cynthia Beatty, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

The evening with Aaron Lazar and special guests was phenomenal!!  
- *Amy Miller, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

FANTASTIC!! - *Mary Epperson, North Carolina, Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

The faculty was kind, caring, well prepared and connected to specific needs for teachers.  
- *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

TAA did an amazing job putting together the Academy with an online format. Every day was jam-packed full of classes, musers, interludes, and performances just like the in-person experience. I'm still spinning from it all! I appreciate the special guest artists that took the time to speak to us and perform for us. Truly a huge blessing that enlivened my artistic soul!  
- *Victoria May, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

TAA was a fantastic experience! I am amazed at how well the virtual Academy was put together. This was a terrific professional development opportunity! - *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

This year's virtual Academy far exceeded my expectations! Thank you for all of the effort and attention to detail that went into making the 2020 Academy an amazing success!!  
- *Lori Wortman, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

More than the instruction; more than the materials provided; more than the integration and variety of opportunities offered...The Virtual TAA experience was just what we all needed in this time of uncertainty. I was enriched and given the confidence to take on the next year as I {RE} Imagine the Visual Virtual Studio.  
- *Eliza "Beth" Perthel, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Not only did I receive excellent content for the changing classroom, during TAA I became the student in the virtual situation. This allowed me to better understand my students' experiences and plan accordingly.  
- *Laura Holderman, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

The Academy as a whole was a fantastic resource with the added bonus of learning how to creatively make virtual learning fun and engaging.  
- *Carmen Teague, Arkansas, Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

I'm feeling more hopeful about the upcoming school year after attending TAA this summer. The sessions gave me useful ideas, multiple solutions, and hope.  
- *Carrie Bryant, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

I didn't even realize how much I needed to communicate with other professionals in my field until we started meeting online. I left TAA feeling rejuvenated.  
- *East TN Arts Leadership and Administration – School Administration*

Everything was so well organized and there was a lot of diversity. I would love to come back next year!  
- *Page Phillips, California, Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

Thank you, thank you, for providing some semblance of normalcy during such an abnormal time. It was a gift. - *Julie Watson, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

In a weird year, TAA was a definite breath of fresh air. Thank you for helping us feel connected and energized and ready to start the new school year.

- *Key McKinney, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

One of the biggest moments of my learning during TAA was when I realized how much more I can still give to my students. I felt uplifted and renewed to educate our children in this continually changing world. More than ever these kids need the Arts to thrive! I am so grateful to the Arts Academy!

- *Amy Jo Adamovich, East TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

I would give the TAA staff a 10 if I could!

- *Alicia Archuleta, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

The TAA instructors rose to the challenge with finding ways to teach movement and connecting the participants in a virtual way. I really enjoyed the entire Virtual Academy experience. - *Laura Starnes, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

The TAA Virtual website and content all were wonderful means in which successful arts instruction was modeled! - *Melinda Sims, East TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

I love the Academy! - *Pamela Andrews, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

The musers were incredible! So grateful for this experience!

- *Jill Courtney, Middle TN Arts Leadership and Administration – School Administration*

I thought the first ever virtual TAA was very successful! I enjoyed learning from both of the instructors, and definitely have some tools to take back to the classroom...virtually and in person.

- *Jennifer Partridge, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

First time attendee, Loved every second!

- *Brian Pounders, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Wow, for this being your first year virtually, you really made it seem like you've been doing it virtually for years! - *Marie Barker, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

I feel this was such a positive experience in a very uncertain time.

- *Natalie Rudzena, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

TAA was wonderful about teaching us the possibilities of distance learning. I truly learned the meaning of flexibility and possibility. This was an excellent solution to a crazy world situation.

- *Kell Christie, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

Incredibly well put-together! - *Nicholas Sipe, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

I thought that the 2020 Virtual Tennessee Arts Academy was absolutely outstanding! All of the Musers and Performers were amazing and very inspirational! I am ready to face this challenging year teaching my students. - *James Hamby III, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

TAA was an informative and uplifting event that I'm glad to have been a part of. The instructors, facilitators, and musings, were all top quality.

- *Shatara Ferguson-Brooks, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

As always, TAA has outdone themselves! The sessions gave me lots of useful resources to take back to the classroom and the stage. - *Michelle Tripp, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

My instructors were the BEST! I learned so much!

- *Mary Margaret Moore, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

TAA actually put my mind to ease that as an educator I CAN teach through virtual and remote learning.

Thank you! - *Lee Bergman, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

This was challenging with all that is going on. You all delivered quality in the midst of it all.

- *West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Instrumental Music*

I was very impressed with how quickly and effectively TAA adapted to the virtual platform and maintained the same level of value. - *West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Even though this was a virtual experience, the content presented was still excellent and exactly what we needed during this moment in history. Everyone rose to the occasion and made the Virtual TAA a great success! - *William Blanchard, West TN Arts Leadership and Administration – School Administration*

I walked away with so many useful classroom ideas as well as valuable information as an artist.

- *Robin Webb, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

The musings were timely and appropriate and provided much needed wisdom.

- *Amy Oliver, Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

TAA always leaves me feeling refreshed and motivated. Because of the TAA, my favorite month is July.

- *Christopher Taylor, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Visual Art*

The Tennessee Arts Academy never fails to present the BEST in arts integration for educators!

- *Middle TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

TAA is the best Professional Development Learning Experience I've had in my professional career as a secondary teacher. I will attend next year.

- *Joanne Zachery, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Thank You for another epic opportunity with TAA!

- *Yvonne Denise Bragg, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Trio Track*

I want to thank every single person who helped to make the TAA Virtual Academy the success that it was.

The online format was easy to use, clinicians whose classes I attended were helpful and prepared. All of the performances were wonderful. - *Wendy Skinner, East TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

I am so impressed with the effort to make sure we had TAA in these trying circumstances. It was very helpful to experience learning virtually as students will have to be online for some of this school year.

- *Curtis Butler, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

Wonderful! I was so anxious about teaching virtually, but, seeing virtual teaching in action, and the fantastic methods, practices, tools, relieved my anxiety. I can conquer the world of virtual teaching!

- *Nancy Beard, West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

Thank you for making TAA 2020 possible! - *Patricia Binkley, East TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Music*

Excellent instructors, excellent presentation, excellent preparation. Bravo!! –  
*Patricia Hudson, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Our world and profession are changing faster than most of us can grasp, but TAA did not shy away from the challenge in front of them. They saw a need for virtual training and not only met that daunting task head on, they far exceeded any expectation set. - *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

I loved attending this year's Academy! It was put together so well.  
- *Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Vocal Music*

Really strong faculty - they did a fabulous job working through the online platform and delivering interesting, challenging, engaging and informative classes. They related to, and engaged the students well - even through the Zoom screen. - *Janet Laws, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Great job on setting up the TAA Virtual Academy!  
- *Robert Gary Reeves, West TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Trio Track*

Excellent job, Tennessee Arts Academy, you are an example for the world to follow. The Academy has always been, is, and will continue to be the ultimate example of arts education in-service.  
- *Earl Delong, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

This was an amazing experience! The Academy will be something that I will always cherish. I plan to use so many ideas in my class.  
- *West TN Elementary/Lower Middle – Theatre/Arts Integration, Creative Drama & Movement*

I loved TAA! Great classes along with wonderful instructors. I will be using what I learned in my classroom. It also helped me with learning how to do virtual learning.  
- *Elizabeth McClain, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Visual Art*

Thank you for all your hard work to make the Academy virtual! It was a very valuable experience.  
- *Karen Joy Thomas, Middle TN Upper Middle/Secondary – Theatre*

### **Additional Faculty Comments**

An Academy strength was the participants' eagerness to learn and embrace progressive ideas for the classroom. - *Upper Middle/Secondary Music Faculty*

Going virtual was a challenge and the Arts Academy met it most effectively.  
- *Upper Middle/Secondary Theatre Faculty*

In a very difficult situation (COVID-19), the Tennessee Arts Academy has to be seen as a tremendous success!!! - *Upper Middle/Secondary Visual Art Faculty*