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**Northwestern
Middle School
ART & CREATIVITY
CLUB**

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Cultural Arts Patrons launch the Northwestern Middle School Art & Creative Club

A unique after school program partnering businesses, arts patrons and students

Milton, GA: Monfort's Education Fund for Youth Art, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to building creative opportunities for all ages, has recently launched the **Art and Creative Club** for Fulton County's Northwestern Middle School (NMS). "Northwestern is committed to challenging students to strive to their full potential for academic excellence and personal growth," says Ashley McGill, Assistant Principal and club advisor. Our goal is to provide discovery based learning for students who want to explore their creative side through the cultural arts.



"We have successfully partnered with the business community and other arts patrons to sponsor students to cover their tuition," says Nancy Suttles, Creative Director and volunteer. These programs are essential for students who want to learn more about the cultural arts, creativity and critical thinking. Our goal is to use this first project as a model we can take into other schools across the nation. By partnering with Dr. and Mrs. Ray Hoyum, founders of Monfort's Education Fund for Youth Art, we are able to offer programs at little or no cost to the participants. It is a win-win for everyone."

The first semester will be a 12 week program and feature a mural project that will be installed on a wall in Northwestern's sustainable garden in early December 2012. Classes are being taught by Maureen Engle, a professional artist and painter with over 25 years of experience. Students will meet each Tuesday after school from 4:15 - 5:30 pm to work on their panels.

The project was inspired by Dr. John Bartlett, a science teacher at NMS, who created the outdoor Permaculture classroom where the mural will be installed. Permaculture is an ecological, holistic and sustainable design system and philosophy for human living spaces. The goal of this first mural class is to encourage the students to interact with the environment and create beautiful art for everyone to enjoy.

"Our goal is to raise enough money and awareness that we can offer additional after school art classes for 2013. As a "mobile mini-art school", we have the resources, experience and professional instructor base to give students a real opportunity to build their skills to become independent contributors to the community," says Dr. Hoyum. "There is no limit to the positive impact we can have on creative talent of all ages."



Photo: Maureen Engle, Instructor, teaching the first class of the Northwestern Middle School Art and Creativity Club students. Northwestern Middle School • 2805 Birmingham Highway Milton, GA 30004 • (770) 667-2870