



Young Audiences/Arts for Learning  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 5, 2011

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Wiley H. Bates Middle School: Honored with the 2011 Visionary School Award from Young Audiences

Young Audiences/Arts for Learning of Maryland is pleased to honor Wiley H. Bates Middle School with its 2011 Visionary School Award. This Anne Arundel County school was selected for its leadership in advocating and providing a comprehensive arts education program to their students.

Arts integration is embraced at Bates Middle School and valued as a way to strengthen curricular connections, increase student engagement, and enhance student learning. In addition to providing multiple opportunities to learn in the arts, arts integration gives students an opportunity to learn through the arts. Artists and teachers work together to create natural, meaningful connections between art forms and curricular areas. Through their unique arts integrated Summer Bridge program "Imagination Vacation", artists and teachers team-plan and team-teach incoming students to prepare them for their new school.

At a time when many schools and school districts are choosing to cut back on the arts, Bates Middle School has made a larger investment. This commitment includes keeping quality visual arts, instrumental and vocal music, and dance teachers on staff. An exemplary and dedicated administration has made these accomplishments possible. Principal Dr. Diane Bragdon provides staff with the infrastructure necessary for student success. Teachers take part in extensive and on-going training in arts integration. The program at Bates Middle School is also heavily supported by the vision and expertise of Dr. Kevin Maxwell, superintendent for Anne Arundel County Schools.

For their outstanding achievement and leadership, Wiley H. Bates Middle School will be recognized among 400 distinguished guests at **Taste the Arts VI: Reinventing the Future** on March 26, 2011.

Taste the Arts is Young Audiences' annual fundraiser gala. Artists, educators, students and supporters gather to celebrate the arts and honor leaders in arts education. Guests enjoy food from Baltimore area restaurants, performances from artists and a live and silent auction. Funds raised at this event will support our efforts to offer the highest quality arts education programs at the lowest possible cost, so that any child or school, regardless of their resources, can experience the arts.

**When:** Saturday, March 26, 2011  
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm

**Where:** American Visionary Art Museum  
800 Key Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21230

[Young Audiences/Arts for Learning](http://www.yamd.org) is America's largest arts in education nonprofit, and the state's most utilized arts education resource. Founded in 1950, Young Audiences has been bringing the arts into the lives and education of Maryland's youth for over 60 years. Young Audiences envisions a Maryland where the arts are

valued for their capacity to transform lives, and where every student is immersed in opportunities to imagine, to create and to realize their full potential through the arts.

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Stacie Sanders, Executive Director, Young Audiences/Arts for Learning, contact Michelle Clesse at 410.837.7577 or [michelle@yamd.org](mailto:michelle@yamd.org).

*Young Audiences/Arts for Learning Maryland Chapter is a non-profit organization devoted to enriching the lives and education of Maryland's youth through educational and culturally diverse arts programs. For more information, contact YA at 410.837.7577 or visit us on the web at [www.yamd.org](http://www.yamd.org).*

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