



Dear Friend,

You might know AthFest Educates as the nonprofit organization that produces the AthFest Music & Arts Festival and the AthHalf Half Marathon. While we are incredibly proud of these two successful community events, the larger mission of AthFest Educates is a year-round commitment to advance the quality and quantity of music and arts education for Athens youth.

**To date, AthFest Educates has awarded more than \$370,000 in grants to support music and arts youth initiatives in Athens-Clarke County.**

### **An AthFest Educates Success Story: The Winterville Elementary Stop Animation Program**

Winterville Elementary Art Teacher, Carlin Brownlee, had an innovative way to improve her students' literacy and technology skills through art: stop animation filmmaking. With stop animation programs, students use the art of photography and filmmaking to develop their planning, storytelling, and character development skills while simultaneously learning about lighting, staging, filming, and editing.

Brownlee had just one problem: creating a stop animation program for 272 2nd thru 5th-grade students wasn't going to be cheap. She had the passion and knowledge to implement the program; she just needed funds for the technology and art supplies to make it happen. And that's where AthFest Educates stepped in. With an AthFest Educates grant, Brownlee had what she needed to make this project come alive.



*Screenshot from "The Plane" stop animation film by Winterville Elementary 4th graders.*



*Screenshot from "The Life of a Snail" stop animation film by Winterville Elementary 5th graders.*

Students worked in teams to draft storylines and identify their characters, and they used molding clay to build their characters and sets. Team members assigned themselves into roles as directors, photographers, or character and set movers, and they filmed their scenes. Once filming was complete, the teams edited their videos, added voice overs and sound effects, and published their short films on YouTube to share with their peers and families.

As Brownlee noted, "Since working on this project, I have heard from several Winterville families that their children have been using their stop motion skills to create films at home. I was so happy to hear that this project piqued their interest and inspired them to pursue filmmaking outside of the art room. And who knows, maybe one of our Winterville Elementary students will be the next rising star at Pixar."

### **Support Music and Arts Education**

**Our local art and music educators have an abundance of creativity and passion. What they lack are the funds needed to turn their innovative ideas into reality for their students.**

We need your support so we can continue to help our Athens teachers and youth development specialists, like Carlin Brownlee, make a difference for our youth.

Every tax-deductible gift we receive fosters the unique creativity of our community's education professionals and helps them implement a full range of high-quality music and arts opportunities.

Thank you for considering AthFest Educates in your year-end giving.

Sincerely,

Jill Helme  
Executive Director, AthFest Educates

*Please take a moment right now to complete the enclosed form and send this along with your tax deductible gift in the envelope provided, or make your gift online at [athfesteducates.org/donate](http://athfesteducates.org/donate).*

**THANK YOU!**