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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WKES teacher receives Artsonia outstanding leadership award

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Ginny Merett, art teacher at White Knoll Elementary School, received an outstanding leadership award for Arts Education from Artsonia.

This award honors teachers who go beyond the classroom walls to encourage family and community involvement in arts education. The award also recognizes significant achievement in the area of technology integration within the school arts program.

WKES online art gallery (www.artsonia.com/schools/knoll1) ranks number six in the state. In the 2008–2009 school year, the gallery showcased more than 2,700 pieces of artwork and helped to raise almost \$360 for the school's art program by allowing family member to purchase keepsakes.

"Artsonia is a simple yet effective way to get parents and family members more involved in Art Education," said Merett, "and my students love it!"

Artsonia is an online kid's art museum providing free, educational resources for kids, families and schools. Artsonia integrates technology in the classroom, develops a multi-cultural understanding through art and increases family involvement in children's education.

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WKES Art Teacher Ginny Meritt