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Education Notebook  
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### **Pulaski students take on improvisation**

On Wednesday, some Pulaski Elementary School students will have their third lesson in improvisational acting.

Students in grades three to five are taking part in a weekly after-school program through Virginia Tech that is aimed at increasing their writing and reading skills while also teaching about the arts.

"They're so excited. They can't wait," said teacher Kimberly Sink.

Tech visiting professor Michael Williams created the program, dubbed "ImprovAffect." Focusing on urban students, it uses the theater technique to strengthen critical thinking skills, acting skills and script-writing skills.

Williams has completed ImprovAffect programs in Maryland and New York.

In Pulaski, Sink is writing lesson plans for each weekly workshop. During the workshops, Williams teaches students the improv techniques, and they have discussions about bullying.

In May, the students will perform an improv show at their own school and across the county that revolves around their thoughts on bullying.

"I joke with them and tell them we're going on tour," Sink said.

She said the program is a great opportunity for students and not only improves their skills but also helps to keep the arts in focus in the schools.

"Tech is trying to change the mind-set of the Standards of Learning," Sink said. "They're trying to incorporate the technology and arts into the SOLs so they won't be the first things to cut."