

The Impact of the ARTS

Using Interdisciplinary Arts Units
Principal Magazine: Jan/Feb. 2009

Although the No Child Left Behind Act mandates the visual and performing arts as core subjects, most schools offer scant exposure to them. In her extensive review of the status of elementary arts education, Chapman (2005) suggests that some “initiatives for improvement call for integrating the arts into the academic curriculum.”

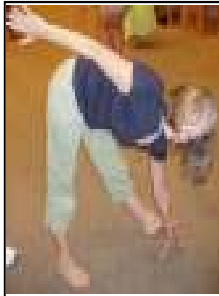
By weaving the visual arts, music, dance, and drama into other content areas, interdisciplinary arts experiences have the potential to enhance student learning in authentic and meaningful ways. Longitudinal studies cite the development of critical thinking, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills as integral components of interdisciplinary arts experiences (Longley, 1999; Stevenson & Deasy, 2005). Whether creating or playing music, performing in a play or dance, or designing art, thinking skills are activated. For example, students involved in art often transfer written text to a visual image or symbolic representation. Exploring the details of conceptual themes such as slavery, immigration, and world cultures are enriched through the visual and performing arts.

Reinforcing comprehension of abstract concepts (Gay, 2000), enhancement of engagement, meaning-making, and reasoning abilities (Diket, 2003), and opportunities for personal expression (Bernard, 2004) are also positive outcomes derived from using the visual and performing arts with other content areas. For example, an eighth-grade math teacher who had his students “acting out” fractions found that although all students benefited from this experience, one student in particular “mastered the concept that had totally baffled her only a short time earlier” (Gay, 2000).



What Are Riverview Teachers Saying?

“I had felt overwhelmed by the new fine arts state standards—I was supposed to do more than watercolor painting with my class? With what training? By working with artist mentors in visual arts the first year and drama the second year I felt so much more confident and capable of teaching those areas. As a bonus, I now have three binders full of lesson plans that have been developed by other mentor/teacher pairs across the district and state. My students will benefit for years to come.”
Emily Roalkvam, Carnation Teacher



“Using the tools I’ve learned in this powerful staff development program has allowed me to take basic K-1 concepts and bring them more fully to life with my students. For example, teaching the basic shapes—by having the students create the various shapes and angles with their bodies in movement they were better able to retain them in class when assessing them in math. **Debra Edwards, Eagle Rock Multiage Program**

“The impact this program has had on me, my teachers, and students has been tremendous. It has ignited a passion that is contagious. It allows us to bring creativity back into the classroom in this high-stakes, high-demand, standards-based environment now days. It allows students to learn doing and through imagination and both sides of their brains.”
Doug Poage, Principal



“There is a high degree of commitment from the RSD principals, staff, and administrators. The RATT Program will move the work begun with Arts Impact to the next level in an ‘inner-district’ model. It will build on the work with the Riverview cadre and will utilize the talents of the trained teachers in peer coaching to develop the capacity of other district teachers to integrate the arts into the core curriculum.”

Sibyl Barnum, Director of Arts Impact

“We are particularly proud of the Riverview School District as our first whole district model in the Principal Arts Leadership Program (with Arts Ed. Washington). We would welcome a formal role in growing the energy and impact through an ongoing planning model.”

Una McAlinden, Executive Director Arts Ed. WA



Riverview Arts Teacher Training Program



Summer Arts Academy

August 17-19, 2009

8:00-3:00

@ Carnation Elementary

For RSD K-8th Teachers

Building Bridges to the Future Through the ARTS!



Take advantage of this opportunity to receive professional on-the-job arts training by becoming a member of the Riverview Arts Teacher Training Program (RATT).

The Riverview School

District, in cooperation with the Washington State Arts Commission and Arts Impact, will provide an outstanding opportunity to elementary and middle school teachers to learn to infuse the arts into their curriculum.

This two-year program will begin with an intensive three-day **Summer Arts Academy** held at Carnation Elementary School and led by our own Arts Coordinator, Carol Gould. The first year will focus on Visual Arts and the following year will be a combination of Drama and Dance. Each teacher participating will be matched with a professional teaching artist to work collaboratively with throughout the school year to model effective arts instructional methods and develop comprehensive arts lesson plans and embedded assessments. In addition, each participant will be matched with a RSD Mentor Teacher (Arts-Impact Graduate) to work collaboratively with throughout the program.

Once graduating from the RATT Program teachers will be well equipped to teach the new WA State Arts Standards and use the CBP Assessments. In addition, they will receive a \$200 art supply stipend per year, a 1/2 day of release time, and dozens of arts lesson plans for classroom use.



Riverview teachers perform an original dance routine, inspired by Aboriginal artwork during the Summer Arts Institute at SAM, Summer 2008.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- **Two, hands-on Summer Arts Academy Trainings**—to teach the basic concepts and skills in Visual Arts (Year 1) & Drama/Dance (Year 2). Training includes art-classroom management and teaching strategies and criteria-based performance assessments.
- **Three, one-on-one collaborations** with a professional artist mentor to teach the arts in the classroom, write an arts lesson, and assess student learning.
- **Arts Impact Alumni Coach/Mentor**—Each participant will be matched with an Arts Coach/Mentor to support their learning throughout the school year. This includes at least one release 1/2 day to observe/collaborate.
- **\$200 Arts Supply/Lesson Kit Fund** per year. Each participant will receive funding for art supplies and materials to be used with their classroom and for the development of a Lesson Kit for the school to use w/ original lesson plan.
- **Additional Arts Workshops**—offered during the school year to focus on additional foundational arts skills and concepts by area artists.
- **Collection of Arts Lesson Plans**—After completing this training each teacher will come away with a binder full of arts lesson plans and assessments for his/her classroom.

Riverview Arts Teacher Training Program

If you are interested in signing up for the RATT Program or would like more information please complete this form and return it to **Robin Nordquist at the Curriculum Office.**

I am interested in participating in the RATT Program.

- Yes, Sign me up!
 I'm Interested
 I need more information.

I am available during the week of August 17-19 for the Summer Arts Training Program (required for participating)

- Yes
 Maybe
 No

Space is limited to 25 participants

Name _____

School & Grade Level _____

Summer Address _____

Summer E-mail _____

Summer Phone _____

Please return Registration Form to...

**Robin Nordquist at the RSD Curriculum Office
by August 3rd**



For More Information Contact:
Carol Gould, Arts Coordinator/TOSA

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