

SUBJECT: GENERAL ART LEARNING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS**Overview**

During the fall of 2009, a District 68 Art Learning Team (ALT) was formed for the purpose of examining the current research and best practice in art to inform the revision of the general art curriculum in District 68. The following members served on the ALT:

Amanda Brooks	Art Teacher-OOJH
Amy Manata	Parent-Devonshire
Sue O'Neil	Principal-Stenson
Mark Nielsen	Parent-Highland and OOJH
Barbara Phillips	Asst. Superintendent-ESC
Eva Rafas	Parent –Stenson
Deann Saykawlard	Art Teacher-Highland
Molly Siegel	Art Teacher-Devonshire
Kathryn Hillyer	Deerfield School District 109 and Art Consultant
Anne Reichel	Curriculum Consultant

The ALT met five times between September 23 and December 2, 2009, and completed the following activities:

- Reviewed the Illinois and National Performance Standards for Art (K-8)
- Read and reviewed literature on current trends and best practices in general art education
- Discussed parent and community expectations for general art instruction in the district
- Discussed the current general art program in terms of alignment with standards and course offerings
- Reviewed vision statements from prior documents regarding the art program in District 68
- Audited the art program with a rubric/template prepared by the consultant which aligned with national standards and was completed by teachers of art
- Listened to a presentation from Mary Jo Papich, Director of the Fine Arts Department at Niles Township 219, regarding the secondary education curriculum including identification of the purpose and competencies that need to be addressed and met in the K-8 curriculum if students are to be adequately prepared for the high school level art program
- Conducted four school visits based on recommendations from our consultant and team members regarding exemplary art programs outside the district to observe curriculum, programs, scheduling, and pedagogy
- Conducted two art classroom visits within District 68 for informational purposes

Belief Statement

The vision of District 68 is to provide all students with a general art education that provides a rich tapestry of experiences that foster an appreciation of art, actively engage children in creative work, and nurture the development of critical thinkers and problem solvers.

The visual arts are a language that all people speak. They provide a forum for celebrating our diverse cultural and personal perspectives and have the unique potential to bring every subject to life. As children engage in this creative endeavor they not only develop their artistic voice, they learn to make connections, learn from mistakes and envision new solutions. The visual arts weave the complex threads of time, place, and character into an interconnected whole that help children make sense of an increasingly complex world.

The visual arts afford children with an opportunity to take an idea from inception through a process of experimentation and refinement to completion, providing a place in the day where children can experience the intrinsic reward of this process.

Visual arts is one of the fine arts offerings in grades K-5 and one of the areas of study in the OOHJH Encore Program. The purpose of the general visual arts program is to explore a rich palette of art media integrating the language and methods of the arts, opportunities to create, and opportunities to investigate arts in civilizations past and present.

Curricular Recommendations:

- Art education draws upon the expertise of art educators and should invite opportunities for integration throughout the curriculum
- Art education should utilize the expertise of professional artists and include opportunities to experience community cultural resources including museums and art galleries
- Art education should provide opportunities to develop: the language of the arts, the skills and techniques to create, and an understanding of arts in civilizations past and present
- Art education should include varied means of assessment to enable students to demonstrate their abilities and understandings in multiple ways
- Art education should include opportunities to develop a personal voice by creating art
- Art education should provide opportunities to respond to a piece of art using the language of the discipline
- Art education should be aligned to state and national standards
- Art education should move beyond the school walls

Program Structure Guidance

- Investigate ways to integrate art in other content areas
- Investigate ways to support on-going professional development in the visual arts
- Investigate ways to continue the support of art education through dedicated time allocation, resources, and funding
- Investigate ways to work collaboratively with other schools and community stakeholders

- Investigate ways to incorporate student preference in the Encore course selection
- Investigate ways to incorporate technology into the visual arts curriculum

Implementation Planning

Phase I of the implementation of the general music curriculum began in November, 2009 with Dr. Anne Reichel, consultant, and K-5 general art teachers. The focus has been on the development of a scope and sequence aligned with Illinois standards and national recommendations for art programs in the elementary schools. The development of middle school scope and sequence will begin in December. Assessments for each standard will be developed using performance checklists and written products to monitor progress over time. Unit development, selection of materials, and staff development will follow. The timeline is projected to span the remainder of this school year. Implementation of the curriculum will begin next year. The revised general art curriculum will develop the recommended concepts and skills as an opportunity for all students to develop their aesthetic potential.