

Hamilton Township School District
Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum



Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Committee

Teachers of Hamilton Township School District
Joseph C. Shaner Elementary School
George Hess Educational Complex
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Board of Education Approved: November 11, 2008

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Introduction**
 - A. Philosophy**
 - B. Overview**

- II. Visual and Performing Arts Cumulative Progress Indicator Matrix K-8**

I. INTRODUCTION

Philosophy

It is the goal of the Hamilton Township School District Visual and Performing Arts curriculum to support the personal, intellectual, and social development of students by providing a comprehensive art education program in the disciplines of music, visual art, theater, and dance. The curriculum promotes an integrated approach in teaching the common elements and principles of the arts as well as aesthetics and critique. Students learn an appreciation for the role the arts play in influencing history and world culture. Students benefit from participation in a comprehensive art education program that, as stated in the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, provides:

- The ability to be creative and inventive decision-makers;
- Varied and powerful ways of communicating ideas, thoughts, and feeling;
- An enhanced sense of poise and self-esteem;
- The confidence to undertake new tasks;
- An increased ability to achieve across the curriculum;
- A framework that encourages teamwork and fosters leadership skills;
- Knowledge of the less recognized experiences of aesthetic engagement and intuition;
- Increased potential for life success; and
- An enriched quality of life.

Overview

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards include five Visual and Performing Arts standards, each of which has a number of strands followed by cumulative progress indicators for the grade level clusters K-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8; and 9-12. The standards and their associated strands are as follows:

1.1 Aesthetics

A. Knowledge

B. Skills

1.2 Creation and Performance

A. Dance

B. Music

C. Theater

D. Visual Art

1.3 Elements and Principles of the Arts

A. Dance

B. Music

C. Theater

D. Visual Art

1.4 Critique

A. Knowledge

B. Skills

1.5 World Cultures, History, and Society

A. Knowledge

B. Skills

The Visual and Performing Arts Cumulative Progress Indicator Matrix

A comprehensive matrix indicating the grade levels at which each cumulative progress indicator is addressed was created to show the developmental continuum of visual and performing arts skills and knowledge taught from grades kindergarten through grade eight. The curriculum cultivates a variety of multiple intelligences and enables students to make connections to other areas of study, a practice which research indicates improves cognitive skills and provides motivation for future learning. The cumulative nature of the skills and knowledge outlined in the curriculum provides opportunities for students to balance the creative production of art forms with the reflective study and analysis of them. The study of the arts provides a rich venue through which students can come to appreciate the many dimensions of the human experience.

**II. VISUAL AND PERFORMING
ARTS CUMULATIVE
PROGRESS INDICATOR
MATRIX K-8**