

# Propel Schools Creative Arts

The Propel CreativeArts Program was established on the principle that fine and performing arts are an integral part of every child's education. Our K-8 schools provide students with a wide array of arts classes as an essential, required part of the core curriculum. The variety in arts programming provides an excellent way to tap into children's multiple intelligences, and gives the students an opportunity to express themselves through words, pictures, music, drama or dance. Students at Propel Schools learn from those that are the best in their field, making the arts experience comparable to those that can afford to attend an expensive arts studio education.

All students receive a minimum of one hour of instruction in the arts daily throughout entire school year. In addition to our full-time, certified Art and Music teachers, visiting artists from various professional arts organizations are contracted to teach artistic classes to our students. Our program has established and maintained many relationships with these artistic partners. Each of our visiting artists is in residency for a full twelve-week trimester, ensuring that all students receive six weeks of in-depth instruction with every artist offered throughout the school year. A conscious effort is made to offer a variety of discipline-based modules. This year, students were given instruction from many professional companies, including: **Pittsburgh CLO, Dance Alloy Theatre, First Tee of Pittsburgh, Hip-Hop on L.O.C.K, Staycee Pearl Dance Project, Stage Right Theatre, Studio J, and Pennsylvania Shotokan Karate Club.** These classes rotate with our standards-based Art and Music classes. Students can also elect to be involved in band or string ensemble with semi-private instrumental lessons. In addition, specialists in mosaic art and puppetry work in collaboration with the certified art teacher to provide a unique visual arts experience. Many of these Visiting Artists rotate between the six Propel K-8 Schools, located in Braddock Hills, Homestead, McKeesport, Montour, North Side, and Turtle Creek.

Daily collaboration is provided in the schedule to allow time for the integration of the artists' curriculum with other academics. Each six week arts module culminates with a "Celebration of Learning" where students showcase their accomplishments. These assemblies are ways for students to showcase achievements in the arts, as well as gain valuable experience and confidence in performing in front of an audience.

The CreativeArts Programs at Propel Andrew Street High School and Propel Braddock Hills High School give students the opportunity to elect classes in the arts that help them to find their potential, discover new talents and skills, become innovative and creative thinkers, and find their passion through the arts. High School CreativeArts programs are one hour per day, spanning all three trimesters in the school year. This year's high school programs have included: First Tee of Pittsburgh (Golf), Painting and Printmaking, Jewelry Making, Photography, Videography, Show Choir, Band Ensemble, Sewing & Costume Design, YMCA – Physical Education, Aerobics, Stage Right Theater, and Dance Alloy Theatre.

In an areas where schools are closing due to lack of resources and poor performance, our students continuously excel, despite facing challenges that would normally impede progress. Although many of our students live in poverty, they consistently overcome the odds and exceed our superior expectations.

Our school's enduring commitment to provide quality arts education enables students to discover new talents and skills, become innovative and creative thinkers, and build self-confidence. We empower our students to become academically and artistically accomplished young men and women who are poised, curious, and disciplined. By offering focused learning in the arts, we not only give children something to dream about, but a method to get there.