



PROPEL
SCHOOLSSM

Promising Principles and Powerful Practices

Promising Principle 4:

Fully Valued Arts Program

Powerful Practices:

4.1 Professional Artist Residencies

4.2 Art and Music integrate learning

4.3 Arts for every student, every day

4.4 Celebrations of Learning

Propel Schools' Promising Principles: Arts Education for Every Child, Every Day.

...because artistic expression and creativity are essential components of a complete education.

Founded on the belief that the Fine and Performing Arts are an integral, indispensable component of every child's complete educational experience, the Propel community works together in the cultivation of creativity and artistic collaboration. Unlike other parts of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the Arts, it is judgement rather than rules that prevails. The Arts enable us to have experiences we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling. (E.Eisner, 2002)

Our schools are unique in that we offer students a wide variety of Fine and Creative Arts classes as an essential, required part of the core curriculum. Full-time, certified Art and Music teachers provide standards-based, integrated Fine Arts instruction, while Creative Arts classes are taught by rotating, professional Artists in Residence. Enduring partnerships with local, national and international Arts organizations provide students with an elementary experience that is currently unparalleled in Western Pennsylvania public schools. Propel strives to provide students with a range of creative and cultural opportunities, with daily classes equivalent to those that are offered as extracurricular or private instruction in affluent suburban communities. All K-8 Propel students receive a minimum of one hour of Arts instruction every day during the school day. Older students are given choice, electing to focus studies in areas of their own choosing, thereby encouraging each to discover and nurture his or her own creative passion.

At the end of every Arts module, culminating Celebrations of Learning allow students to perform, demonstrate, and exhibit accomplishments in Fine and Creative Arts classes. Student art shows, musicals, instrumental and show choir performances bring students, families and the community together. Through the Arts, we hope to spark passion in our students that will propel them to realize their potential and become creative, perceptive, lifelong learners.

Arts Education in a Culture of Dignity:

It is our responsibility to ensure that our students believe in their own inherent worth and in the worth and ability of those around them. In the Arts, students celebrate multiple perspectives, learning that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.

Redefine Schools. Defy Expectations.

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