Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts

Introduction

Philosophy and Rationale for the Arts
The arts are essential in education for they provide students with the means to think, feel, and understand the world around them in ways unique and distinct from other academic disciplines. These skills have been recognized as essential to lifelong success both in and out of school by a variety of education and civic leaders, including the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Education Commission of the States, and The Conference Board. These revised Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts embrace the idea of Artistic Literacy – the ability of students to create art, perform and present art, respond or critique art, and connect art to their lives and the world around them.

The 2015 Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts have substantive changes from the 2006 Arts Standards in response to the needs of the field, including:

1. Moving from 3 categories of standards – Create, Relate, Evaluate – to four categories better representing the larger encompassing idea of artistic literacy. The four categories are: Creating, Performing/Presenting/Producing, Responding and Connecting.
2. Grade by grade level standards for each discipline, including 3 levels in high school. These standards will allow for greater differentiation of instruction and support better measurement of student learning.
3. The inclusion of media arts standards, in order to support artistic literacy in the areas of film, animation, gaming and computational artmaking (writing software code to create an aesthetic experience). These media arts standards are meant to supplement any existing Career and Technical Education industry standards in the digital communications area.
4. Embracing the use of Anchor Standards underneath the four categories listed above to create more consistency across the content areas within the standards. The categories and Anchor Standards are listed in the table below:

Arizona Department of Education
Approved May 18, 2015
The Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts provide guidance on what a student should know and be able to do in five art disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts. Every student should receive an introduction to all five arts in Arizona schools such that Arizona has recognized the importance of arts education for its students in a variety of ways, including:

- Adopting Academic Standards in the Arts, with rigorous, sequential guidelines for creating quality arts education for Arizona’s students.
- Developing academic standards in the arts, with rigorous, sequential guidelines for creating quality arts education for Arizona’s students.
- Recognizing a fine arts high school credit for admission to our state universities.
- Recognizing music and visual arts be taught in grades K-12.

Adopting Academic Standards in the Arts: A Louis E. Eiler Professor of Educational Science. We believe that these standards will help schools develop quality arts education programs for their students. Each Eiler Professor is committed to developing a rigorous, sequential guidelines for creating quality arts education for Arizona’s students. Every student should receive an introduction to all five arts in Arizona schools such that Arizona has recognized the importance of arts education for its students in a variety of ways, including:

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1. The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships.
   Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts, it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.

2. The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution and that questions can have more than one answer.

3. The arts celebrate multiple perspectives.
   One of their large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.

4. The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem solving purposes are seldom fixed, but change with circumstance and opportunity. Learning in the arts requires the ability and a willingness to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.

5. The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know. The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.

6. The arts teach students that small differences can have large effects. The arts traffic in subtleties.

7. The arts teach students to think through and within a material. All art forms employ some means to which images become real.

8. The arts help children learn to say what cannot be said.
   When children are invited to disclose what a work of art helps them feel, they must reach into their poetic capacities to find the words that will do the job.

9. The arts enable us to have experience we can have from no other source and through such experience to discover the range and variety of what we are capable of feeling.

10. The arts' position in the school curriculum symbolizes to the young what adults believe is important.


Recent Publications and Research Supporting Quality Arts Education

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Publication</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Education Partnership</td>
<td>Third Space: When Learning Matters. 2005. A study of 10 high-poverty schools throughout the country (including Peter Howell Elementary in Tucson) and how they are using the arts to change their school environments. <a href="http://www.aep-arts.org/resources-2/publications/">http://www.aep-arts.org/resources-2/publications/</a></td>
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<td>The arts help to make learning matter to students. In the schools we studied, the arts put students in active and meaningful roles in their classrooms and connected schools to students' lives and cultures. - (paraphrased from authors Lauren Stevenson and Richard Deasy)</td>
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Art Skills: Map for 21st Century Skills and Business Leaders

...perspectives of others. Express their own thoughts and feelings and understand the... able to locate and employ, explore new realms of possibility... Students who possess these skills are better in the decision-making process. These education examples in this Skills Map illustrate how the arts provide work opportunities of students for the unique knowledge the ability to be business leaders and visionary thinkers concerned about...