



INTENSIVE ARTS EDUCATION ~ K-7

The BC Curriculum Goals and Rationale states, in part:

A strong arts education benefits all students, communities, and societies by contributing to the development of well-rounded, educated citizens. ... Arts education ... stimulates students' imaginations, innovation, creativity, and sense of well-being while developing competencies useful to students' education and careers.

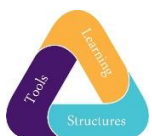
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The Arts Education curriculum is founded on the artistic habits of mind – exploring and creating, reasoning and reflecting, communicating and documenting, and connecting and expanding. All are lifelong and transferable knowledge and skills.

While the development of artistic habits of mind and learning in all four areas of the arts (dance, drama, music, visual art) are part of the curriculum for all students, in the Intensive Arts Education choice program there is a particular emphasis on learning through the arts. A concerted effort is made to:

- Go deeper in skill and knowledge development;
- Encourage students to demonstrate their learning through the arts;
- Use the arts as a lens for exploration of other curricular areas.

In the Intensive Arts Education choice program the arts are not seen as one part of the curriculum; **they are the lens through which the curriculum is explored.** We create learning environments where in-depth experience with the arts becomes a fundamental way of knowing.



Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the strands of the District Intensive Arts Education Program?

- The four strands are Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art.

How is the District IAE program similar to other school programs?

- The same Ministry curriculum is taught.
- Learning support is in place and Challenge Program participation is available.
- Students share the same school goals and expectations as the rest of the school.
- Students can participate in the same extra-curricular opportunities.

How is the District IAE program different from the neighbourhood program?

- The arts are the lens through which the rest of the curriculum is explored.
- Students are expected and encouraged to demonstrate learning through the arts.
- More focused time is spent on learning in each of the four areas of the arts. Therefore, organization of curriculum delivery differs somewhat from the regular program.
- Though all academic subjects are covered, less time is available for practice and review.
- As this is a "Choice Program" parents are asked to contribute \$40.00 per student towards the purchase of additional materials and experiences (no child will be denied the opportunity to participate due to financial hardship).

Will my child be able to concentrate on one discipline?

- No, children are provided with a balanced, holistic approach to arts education. Concentration in one area is not available in this program.

What options are available to IAE students beyond grade 7?

- The District Intensive Arts Education Program is an elementary option. In high school, opportunities are available for students to choose specific elective courses in the different areas of the arts.

Does the program provide field study opportunities and guest artists?

- Typically field studies and guest artists are incorporated into class programs. These are extensions of the programs and will differ from year to year depending on availability and focus of classroom work.

Do teachers have specific training to teach their specific discipline?

- Classroom teachers in the Intensive Arts Education Program are expected to have special training/experience in at least one of the arts strands.

