

## Arts integration lessons In Action

During an arts integration lesson, students will exhibit a deepening of knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through the arts while experiencing both subjects at rigorous academic levels. This academic rigor uses higher level cognitive demands which develops critical thinking, independent judgment, and creative problem-solving skills. As vehicles for learning, arts integration lessons drive higher-order thinking skills to the forefront of the instruction and encourages the students to go deeper into the content.

Teachers are natural driven to collaborate more often with colleagues creating meaningful learning opportunities within each lesson. These lessons are taught using multiple intelligences, and an understanding of different learning styles that will support all learning styles.

Using the arts within the course of a student's daily learning routine will help bring concepts to life and bridge skill sets across disciplines, therefore, creating a positive learning experience.

## Expectations for Administration in an Arts integration School

After creating a school vision for arts integration and setting expectations of growth and goals, the next important step our team took was to begin collaboration and creating lessons this was possible because of an incredibly supportive administration team that vocalized not only the benefits of arts integration but laid the foundation of a strong program.

These foundational pillars are:

- **Encouragement:** Teachers are not often open to change and are often scared of failure; however, without failure, there will be no growth.
- **Understanding:** Teachers need to have reassurance that there are going to be expected ups & downs, and risk-taking in instruction is necessary.
- **Openness:** Teachers need to be supported by the knowledge that the administration will be open to request and feedback directly from the instructors on the need for collaborative time, the building of instructional teams, and professional development prospects.

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Philosophy & Goals



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# My Personal Connection to Arts Integration

Arts Integration is a learning experience that weaves together a web of knowledge while effectively advancing skills in the arts and simultaneously extends the understanding of core content. I not only use arts integration when teaching in my classroom, I also utilize it to learn. I feel this experience gives me a unique perspective of arts integration as educator and arts integration coach.

## UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

I have experienced how arts integration can help students express themselves, share the knowledge they have acquired through their lessons both personally and through my teaching experience. As a learner, I found it hard to put into writing what I had learned; however, when asked to present or create a work of art based on the knowledge of the content, I excelled. I have witnessed students who otherwise would not be able to express themselves or share their learning not only excel in arts integration lesson, but they become classroom leaders.

## EXCITEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

In my experience, arts integration programs offer students not only a chance to show their learning; it gives them the why behind the learning. The web of content that is created exhibits to students how subjects are linked together and brings light to how they function in a real-world experience. From what I have seen, arts integration captures students' imagination and interest with a hook and puts learning on the "front burner" for both teachers and students alike.

## LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Because I have the unique experience of understanding how to teach through arts integration and what a learner needs from an arts integration program, I tend to become a natural leader or art coach for others. I believe that the arts can fundamentally support all areas of study, and confidently I can be a helpful resource to other arts integration teachers or content area teachers. I enjoy working with teachers to find connections, create support materials, and develop ways to deliver lessons in a unique manner. I have created strategies and supporting materials for teachers in the past; hopefully, it helps the teacher experience the benefits of arts integration with their students and encourages them to continue this method of curriculum delivery.

## **Throughout my practice of arts integration, I have found that students benefit from these common resulting educational behaviors.**

- Confidently share knowledge and increasingly express themselves.
- Flattered of the learning playing field which allows a range of students with different achievement levels, abilities, skills, and backgrounds to all to use pathways toward higher achievement and deeper learning levels.
- A positive outlook on learning and the educational possibilities.

# GOALS OF ARTS INTEGRATION



## *Student Connection & Engagement*

A goal of arts integration programs, I have been a part of is to allow the student an opportunity to demonstrate and express knowledge that in traditional models of instruction would not allow for. This will happen alongside the ability to engage more students while depositing a positive learning experience that leaves the student requesting more.



## *School Environment & Community*

A goal for arts integration within a school's environment is predominantly to share work for both reflection and inspiration. Creating displays or hosting arts integration night that shares both content and arts standards along with a description of the process and relating artifacts enables teachers to see what others teacher are working on with in the build. Leading to collaborations simultaneously educates parents & the community about arts integration along with its benefits. Ultimately this sharing can lead to the community reaching into the school through programs like artist-in-residence or on collaborative community projects.



## *Collaboration & Communication*

Another goal of arts integration is to bringing teachers together to share a common goal. Collaboration with other teachers at my school was a critical resource. Teachers work together to support one another, which in turn creates a more professional atmosphere. Teachers can become specialist that encourages teaching to collaborate on lessons across grade levels, art areas, and content areas.