

**DENTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

**FINE ARTS
ANNUAL BOARD REPORT**

OCTOBER 13, 2009

Mission Statement

. . . in pursuit of excellence . . .

The mission of the Denton Public Schools, in partnership with home and community, is to provide the best educational opportunities in a challenging yet supportive environment where individuals and cultural diversity are respected, so that our students become knowledgeable and responsible citizens, capable of life-long learning and of demonstrating the skills necessary to contribute productively in a complex and ever-changing world.

U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN REINFORCES IMPORTANCE OF THE ARTS IN SCHOOLS

More than 1.75 million national music and arts education advocates were encouraged via a national network of coalitions to participate in the call to hear Duncan express his concerns about access to arts education in U.S. public schools, and how these programs can be supported in the future.

The call was initiated after Duncan issued a letter last week to school and education community leaders stating, "At this time when you are making critical and far-reaching budget and program decisions for the upcoming school year, I write to bring to your attention the importance of the arts as a core academic subject and part of a complete education for all students. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) defines the arts as a core subject, and the arts play a significant role in children's development and learning process..."

"The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively," he stated. "These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances. However, recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) results found that only 57 percent of eighth graders attended schools where music instruction was offered at least three or four times a week, and only 47 percent attended schools where visual arts were offered that often."

Duncan outlined the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics' (NCES) next steps for supporting the arts as part of a well-rounded curriculum. These efforts include:

- Conducting a survey to assess the condition of arts education in grades K-12. This fall, elementary and secondary principals will be asked about their schools' offerings in music, dance, theater, and visual arts.
- Surveying elementary classroom teachers next spring as well as music and visual arts specialists at the elementary and secondary levels about their programs and resources.
- Reporting findings from this comprehensive profile in early 2011, the first report like this since the 1999-2000 school year. The data is expected to help practitioners and policymakers make more informed decisions about arts education.

The information in blue below is provided to offer information about the district's fine arts programs, as well as their accomplishments and support of student achievement and overall district success in 2008-09.

I. Vision ... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

a. develop a culture where learning is our first priority

- a primary goal of the fine arts department is to provide quality arts instruction that contributes in a positive way to the education of the “whole child”

b. remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus

- 11,270 elementary students in grades K-5 received weekly instruction from specialists in art and music (100%); 8,555 secondary students received instruction during the 2008-09 school year in one or more fine arts classes (84%); 375 fifth grade students participated in string orchestra classes taught twice a week by middle school and high school orchestra directors; overall district participation in one or more fine arts classes averaged 92% (Attachment A)
- provide an annual “Fine Arts Recruitment Day” program in May at each middle school campus for the district’s 5th graders as they transition from elementary school to middle school
- district approved travel opportunities for fine arts groups both in-state and out-of-state to Corpus Christi, San Antonio, South Padre Island, New Mexico, California, Indiana, Missouri, and New York, as well as Cozumel, Mexico, London, England, and Edinburgh, Scotland

d. develop a budget focused on student and professional learning

- held annual budget meetings in January, 2009 with all secondary fine arts teachers to plan for the 2009-10 school year
- provided financial support from the fine arts budget for focused and area-specific district staff development training opportunities for all fine arts teachers
- continued funding for the district’s Fee Waiver band and orchestra instrument rental program for 2008-09
- added a 3rd band director at Ryan HS and Guyer HS (from campus principal’s teacher allotments) so that all three high school bands now have a brass specialist, woodwind specialist, and percussion specialist
- the director of fine arts wrote and received a district grant for 2009 in the amount of \$5,000 to support ticket and transportation costs for the “Getting Started With the Arts” collaborative program for students in grades 1-5 between the GDAC, the two Denton universities, and the school district

- community funding provided for the 3rd grade opera tickets and transportation from Denton Municipal Electric Company and for the 3rd grade Nutcracker ballet transportation from Christopher and Sue Bancroft

II. Teaching & Learning... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

a. cultivate a consistent, strong, district-wide balanced curriculum based on ongoing needs assessment that supports all students

- completed an annual needs assessment document of prioritized requests for capital equipment items to support fine arts instruction
- provided the middle school All-City Band opportunity through an audition process for students in preparation for TMEA Region 2 Band tryouts
- provided middle school and high school band, choir, and orchestra pre-UIL performance evaluations prior to UIL concert and sight-reading contests
- visited the Gemini School (a professional art school combining visual art and technology) in Cedar Park, Texas as part of the district's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) steering committee

b. expect full curriculum implementation on each campus by instructional leaders

- district fine arts curriculum is based on and aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for all fine arts areas for grades K-12
- established consistent district grading guideline criteria and percentages for high school art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre arts, and dance with input from these teachers through their Fine Arts Council reps (the district currently has elementary and middle school district wide fine arts grading guidelines and percentages in place)

c. establish quality staff development programs and promote professional learning communities

- utilized the district Fine Arts Council representatives, nominated and elected by their peers, to gather teacher input for professional development ideas and to facilitate staff development training in eight areas, including elementary art, elementary music, secondary art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre arts, and dance (Attachment B)

- focused staff development training developed with fine arts teacher input is provided for elementary art, elementary music, secondary art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre arts, and dance
 - involved fine arts staff in at least one 3-hour block of training promoting interdisciplinary connections between each fine arts area and one of the foundation subject areas
 - arranged for fine arts staff development presenters, including DISD master teachers, master teachers from other school districts, faculty members from Texas Woman's University and the University of North Texas, faculty members from other universities, and experts from professional fine arts venues
- d. strive to deliver all academic programs through teachers possessing advanced degrees and demonstrable competence in their areas of professional responsibility**
- new fine arts hires for 2009-10 include one teacher pursuing a master's degree and one teacher pursuing a doctoral degree
- e. stay abreast of and incorporate best practices into teaching, learning and leadership**
- provided all fine arts staff two days of educational leave annually with sub costs covered by the FA Department to attend their state fine arts conference (TAEA, TMEA, TETA, TDEA)
- f. advocate and practice true accountability based on measurement of individual student progress over time, regardless of external mandates**
- conducted rhythmic and melodic benchmark assessments for music students in grades 1-5 in an effort to improve curriculum delivery and student mastery
 - monitored director and program achievement through VASE and UIL participation as evidenced through the district's art, band, choir, orchestra, and theatre arts groups

III. Climate... In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

- a. celebrate and respect the diversity in our Denton ISD Community.**
- district fine arts programs provide students with multi-cultural experiences and exposure to diverse artistic genres and styles
 - district fine arts recruitment materials are provided in both English and Spanish

- offered a non-traditional small ensemble experience through the African Drumming Ensemble, a part of the percussion program at Denton HS
- provided a collaborative jazz band cluster program involving the Calhoun MS Jazz Band, the Denton HS Jazz Band, and the UNT 5 O'clock Jazz Band
- explored curriculum needs and financial costs for a Mariachi program at Guyer HS (involved numerous meetings with GHS administration and UNT mariachi sponsor Dr. Donna Emmanuel)

b. promote and nourish a safe learning and working environment which is supportive, cooperative, and ensures open communication.

- maintained district Fine Arts web site with information about the district's fine arts programs and with links to individual campus fine arts programs

c. establish a high expectation level for success for all students, staff, parents, and community

- elementary campuses participated in a student art show at the GDAC and the Denton Public Libraries in conjunction with the Gerald McDermott exhibit (December, 2008)
- high school campuses participated in an annual spring show highlighting student artwork at the Visual Art Center
- 11 Guyer High School and 3 Denton High School art students qualified for state Visual Art Scholastic Event (VASE) competition; 6 GHS students received highest score medals and 3 GHS students received the "Gold Seal" award given to the top 6% of all student artwork entered in the state competition (April, 2009)
- 3 students, one each from Denton HS, Guyer HS, and Ryan HS selected for the Texas Dance Educators Association (TDEA) All-State Dance Team (January, 2009)
- Guyer HS Theatre Arts UIL One-Act Play advanced to Regional and Area Competition and their production of *Amadeus* placed 2nd in the UIL State 4A One-Act Competition in Austin (May, 2009)
- 11 high school band, choir, and orchestra students earned a place in a Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State ensemble (February, 2009)
- 34 UIL Sweepstakes Awards for middle school and high school bands, choirs, and orchestras, including 84 First Division Superior Ratings ; 16 Second Division Excellent Ratings; 1 Third Division Average Ratings (Attachment C)

- Numerous band, choir, and orchestra solos and ensembles from Denton HS, Ryan HS, and Guyer HS qualified for and participated in the UIL Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest held at the University of Texas in Austin resulting in a number of gold, silver, and bronze medal recipients (May, 2008)

d. instill in students a love of life-long learning

- fine arts students develop artistic skills and, in addition, through their involvement in the arts they learn organization, leadership, team work, self-discipline, coordination, and motivation

e. motivate and prepare students to embrace their full responsibilities as active citizens of their community, nation, and world

- fine arts students are taught and encouraged to develop high-level artistic skills that will enable them to participate in arts activities in college and throughout their adult lives as community leaders and involved, informed, well-educated citizens

IV. Parent and Community Involvement...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

a. foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students

- 7,763 students and teachers were served in the fall of 2008 through the “Getting Started With the Arts” fine arts enrichment series for students in grades 1-5 in collaboration with the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC), Texas Woman’s University, and the University of North Texas (Attachment D—transportation and ticket costs funded with grant support of \$5,100 from the GDAC, as well as the district fine arts budget)
- 150 fifth grade students from 18 elementary campuses participated in the first “DISD 5th Grade Honor Choir” performance in the Murchison Performing Arts Center at UNT in March, 2009 through support from the UNT College of Music Advisory Council and the DISD Fine Arts Department
- collaborated with the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC) to provide “Super Arts Saturdays” programs in music, visual arts, and dance for the 2nd-5th grade students and their parents
- collaborated with the University of North Texas string pedagogy department in offering the “String Project” opportunity for students in grades 2-4

- collaborated with the University of North Texas to offer the “Start Up the Band” on Saturday mornings to 5th grade students in the district’s Title I schools—the grant provides instrument rental for the students and UNT student instructors
- elementary choirs, as well as middle school and high school show choirs and jazz bands participated in the Denton Arts and Jazz Festival (April, 2009)
- high school fine arts groups have parent booster organizations that provided additional physical and financial support
- Denton HS Band Boosters sponsored the annual “Golden Triangle Marching Classic” event for metroplex bands at the C. H. Collins Athletic Complex (October, 2008)
- Ryan HS Band Boosters hosted the third annual “Red River Thunder” Drum Core International marching festival which attracted approximately 3,000 spectators to the C. H. Collins Athletic Complex (July, 2009)

b. work continuously with the community in planning and facility development

- 2007 bond program included construction of a new band hall at McMath Middle School and a new orchestra hall at Strickland Middle School (these projects are yet to be completed and are pending the sale of bonds for Phase II of the 2007 bond program)
- new dance facility completed at Ryan HS and new art rooms at Hodge and McNair Elementary Schools

c. utilize citizens’ advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks

- the director of fine arts compiled a district survey that resulted in the district being named to the “Best Communities for Music Education in America” list for the fourth time (2009, 2008, 2007, and 2004)
- the director of fine arts served as a member of the Greater Denton Arts Council (GDAC) Education/Exhibition committee in planning the “Getting Started With the Arts” program for district 1st through 5th graders and the “Super Arts Saturdays” programs in music, visual art, and dance
- the director of fine arts served as a member of the Governing Board for the Music Theatre of Denton through the summer of 2009
- the director of fine arts currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Visual Art Society of Texas (VAST)

V. Human Resources...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

a. develop and expect a consistently high level of, and respect for, professional performance by all staff

- district fine arts teachers are evaluated through the PRIDE document by campus administrators
- the director of fine arts served as a second fine arts teacher evaluator when requested by the campus principal
- the director of fine arts routinely attended fine arts shows, concerts, festivals, and UIL events to monitor the growth and progress of fine arts students and programs

b. recruit, select, and employ teachers in every classroom because of substantive experience in the discipline they teach, rather than in auxiliary functions

- the director of fine arts represented the district at four job fairs to recruit quality fine arts candidates to interview for district openings
- the director of fine arts is actively involved with campus principals and interview teams in screening resumes and filling open fine arts positions
- the director of fine arts assisted with placement of student teachers from TWU, UNT, and other universities in our art, band, choir, orchestra, theatre arts, and dance programs through collaboration with the HR Department and the campus principals

d. encourage all teachers and staff to pursue advanced professional development and degrees within their specialty area

- 3 elementary music teachers completed Kodaly certification levels at UNT (Summer, 2008—2 teachers completed Level III and one teacher completed Level II)

VI. Growth & Change...In pursuit of excellence, the district will:

a. review and adjust policies and procedures effectively to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community

- auditioned DISD Private Lesson Teachers in September and January to attract and retain quality private lesson teachers for our band, choir, and orchestra programs; maintained approved list of active private lesson teachers

c. be environmentally responsible and aggressively pursue energy efficiency and conservation principles in building design, transportation alternatives, and operating procedures

- consulted with DISD Operations and district architects on carpet removal in fine arts classrooms, as well as the resulting sound level concerns related to possible hearing damage/loss for students and directors, particularly in band halls with too much reverb

ATTACHMENT A
Denton ISD Fine Arts Participation
2008 – 2009

FINE ARTS PROGRAM	SCHOOL	# of STUDENTS	# of TEACHERS
ELEMENTARY STRINGS (5TH)	Blanton (15); Borman (10); Evers (22); Ginnings (13); Hawk (41); Hodge (13); Houston (16); Lee (19); McNair (18); Nelson (21); Paloma Creek (18); Pecan Creek (26); Providence (21); EP Rayzor (23); N Rayzor (28); Rivera (14); Savannah (17); Stephens (2); WS Ryan (19); Wilson (19)	375	Taught by MS & HS Orchestra Directors
ELEMENTARY ART			20
ELEMENTARY MUSIC			20

FINE ARTS PROGRAM	SCHOOL	# of STUDENTS	# of TEACHERS
ART			
	Denton HS	310	3
	AP Studio Art/IB Art	(13)	
	Ryan HS	283	2.5
	AP Studio Art	(9)	
	Guyer HS	568	4
	AP Studio Art	(15)	
	Calhoun MS (no 6 th wheel)	206	1
	Crownover MS (160 – 6 th wheel)	309	1
	Harpool MS (108 – 6 th wheel)	188	1
	McMath MS (58 – 6 th wheel)	209	1
	Navo MS (155 – 6 th wheel)	276	1
	Strickland MS (68 – 6 th wheel)	284	2
	TOTAL (includes "wheel" & semester classes)	2,633	16.5
BAND			
	Denton HS	115	3
	Jazz Band	(15)	
	AP Music Theory	(0)	
	Ryan HS	130	2
	Jazz Band	(15)	
	AP Music Theory	(7)	
	Guyer HS	142	2
	Jazz Band	(17)	
	AP Music Theory	(12)	
	Calhoun MS	121	2
	Jazz Band	(10)	
	Crownover MS	134	2
	Jazz Band	(20)	
	Harpool MS	182	2
	Jazz Band	(20)	
	McMath MS	118	2
	Navo MS	120	2
	Strickland MS	143	2
	Jazz Band	(34)	
	TOTAL	1,205	19

FINE ARTS PROGRAM	SCHOOL	# of STUDENTS	# of TEACHERS
CHOIR			
	Denton HS	165	2
	Show Choir	(14)	
	Ryan HS	130	1.5
	Show Choir	(12)	
	Guyer HS	108	1
	Show Choir	(11)	
	Calhoun MS	116	1
	Crownover	105	1
	Show Choir	(20)	
	Harpool MS	125	1
	Show Choir	(17)	
	McMath MS	114	1
	Show Choir	(26)	
	Navo MS	126	1
	Show Choir	(16)	
	Strickland MS	278	2
	Show Choir	(48)	
	TOTAL	1,267	11.5
ORCHESTRA			
	Denton HS (5 th grade – 35)	90 (125)	1
	Ryan HS (5 th grade – 33)	49 (92)	1
	Guyer HS (5 th grade – 62)	107 (169)	2
	Calhoun MS (5 th grade – 38)	73 (111)	1
	Crownover MS (5 th grade – 67)	84 (151)	1
	Harpool MS (5 th grade – 38)	58 (96)	1
	McMath MS (5 th grade – 35)	74 (109)	1
	Navo MS (5 th grade – 35)	94 (129)	1
	Strickland MS (5 th grade – 32)	93 (125)	1
	TOTAL (5th grade – 375)	722 (1,107)	10
THEATRE ARTS			
	Denton HS	132	1
	Ryan HS	282	2.5
	Guyer HS	349	2
	Calhoun MS (no 6 th wheel)	139	1
	Crownover MS (142 – 6 th wheel)	290	1
	Harpool MS (110 – 6 th wheel)	253	1
	McMath MS (67 – 6 th wheel)	183	1
	Navo MS (116 – 6 th wheel)	286	1
	Strickland MS (82 – 6 th wheel)	192	1
	TOTAL (includes “wheel” & semester classes)	2,106	11.5
DANCE (HS only)			
	Denton HS	201	1
	Ryan HS	221	2
	Guyer HS	200	2
	TOTAL	622	5
SECONDARY FINE ARTS		(8,555)	Full Time; Pt.-tm 73.5 5
ELEMENTARY FINE ARTS		(11,270)	Full Time; Pt.-tm 40 0
GRAND TOTAL		(19,825)	Full Time; Pt.-tm 113.5 5

Elementary Fine Arts Participation (Art, Music, and Strings)	100%
Secondary Fine Arts Participation (Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre Arts, and Dance)	84%
Total Fine Arts Participation in the District (Elementary and Secondary)	92%

ATTACHMENT B
Denton ISD Fine Arts Council Representatives
2008 – 2009

Elementary Art	Rhonda Sherrill (Sam Houston Elem.)
Elementary Music	Tina Arenas (WS Ryan Elem.)
Secondary Art	Todd Ford (Ryan HS)
Band	Christin Bunch (Crownover MS)
Choir	Josh Taylor (Navo MS)
Orchestra	Tami Peterson (Ryan HS)
Theatre Arts	Alison Trapp (Denton HS)
Dance	Kerri Burgess (Denton HS)

ATTACHMENT C
Denton ISD UIL Results
2008 – 2009

GROUP	SCHOOL	DIRECTOR(S)	CONCERT	SR	SWEEPSTKS
Band					
Marching II	Denton HS (V)	Brian Wilson	I	I	-
Marching I	Guyer HS (V)	Chris Cansler	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (NV)	Amy Woody	II	I	-
Marching I	Ryan HS (V)	Eddy Russell	I	I	SW
	Ryan HS (NV)	Lee Smith	II	I	-
	Calhoun MS (NV)	Candace Mulvany/M. Guerrero	II	II	-
	Crownover MS (V)	Christin Bunch	I	I	SW
	Harpool MS (V)	Bryan Stone	I	I	SW
	Harpool MS (NV)	Heather Brannock	II	II	-
	McMath MS (V)	Daniel Southerland	II	I	-
	Navo MS (NV)	Ray Staniszewski/P. Hudson	III	I	-
	Strickland MS (V)	Howard Lewis	I	I	SW
Choir					
	Denton HS (V Women)	Mark Baker/Michael Pricer	I	I	SW
	Denton HS (V Men)	Mark Baker/Michael Pricer	I	I	SW
	Denton HS (V Mixed)	Mark Baker/Michael Pricer	I	I	SW
	Denton HS (NV Women)	Mark Baker/Michael Pricer	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (NV Women)	Lawrence Johnson	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (V Women)	Lawrence Johnson	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (V Mixed)	Lawrence Johnson	II	I	-
	Ryan HS (NV Women)	David Rives/Scott Thompson	II	I	-
	Ryan HS (V Women)	David Rives/Scott Thompson	I	I	SW
	Ryan HS (V Men)	David Rives/Scott Thompson	I	II	-
	Ryan HS (V Mixed)	David Rives/Scott Thompson	I	I	SW
Treble	Calhoun MS (V)	Denise Stephens	I	I	SW
Treble	Crownover MS (V)	Stephanie Hicks	I	I	SW
Treble	Harpool MS (NV)	Nathan Dame	I	I	SW
Tenor-Bass	Harpool MS (NV)	Nathan Dame	II	I	-
Treble	McMath MS (NV)	Amanda Kennedy	I	II	-
Treble	McMath MS (V)	Amanda Kennedy	I	I	SW
Treble	Navo MS (NV)	Joshua Taylor	I	I	SW
Tenor-Bass	Navo MS (NV)	Joshua Taylor	I	II	-
Treble	Strickland MS (NV)	Amy Logan	I	I	SW
Treble	Strickland MS (V)	Patti Freeman	I	I	SW
Tenor-Bass	Strickland MS (V)	Patti Freeman	I	I	SW
Orchestra					
	Denton HS (NV)	David Mairs	I	I	SW
	Denton HS (V)	David Mairs	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (Sub NV)	Jeremy Atkins	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (NV)	Michelle Brians	I	I	SW
	Guyer HS (V)	Michelle Brians	I	I	SW
	Ryan HS (NV)	Tami Peterson	I	I	SW
	Ryan HS (V)	Tami Peterson	I	I	SW
	Calhoun MS (V)	Sara Bollinger	II	I	-
	Crownover MS (NV)	Angela Harvey	II	I	-
	Crownover MS (V)	Angela Harvey	I	I	SW
	Harpool MS (NV)	Carmen Wiest	I	I	SW
	McMath MS (NV)	Merrie McCane	I	I	SW
	McMath MS (V)	Merrie McCane	I	I	SW
	Navo MS (V)	Clint Capshaw	I	I	SW
	Strickland MS (V)	Jessica Capshaw	I	I	SW
Theatre Arts					
One Act Play	Denton HS	Alison Trapp	District	-	-
One Act Play	Guyer HS	Eleshia Crotwell	District/Area/Region	-	State
One Act Play	Ryan HS	Jeannene Abney	District	-	-
One Act Play	Calhoun MS	Melissa Cowles		III	Good
One Act Play	Crownover MS	M'Lisa Hansen		I	Superior
One Act Play	Harpool MS	Erin Turek		II	Excellent
One Act Play	McMath MS	John Evarts		II	Excellent
One Act Play	Navo MS	Chad Withers		III	Good
One Act Play	Strickland MS	Susan Norton		II	Excellent

ATTACHMENT D
“Getting Started With the Arts”
Collaborative Fine Arts Enrichment Program (Grades 1-5)
2008 – 2009

Program	Grade	Location	Presenter	Number Schools	Number Students	Number Teachers	Total Attending	Bus Cost
Children’s Theatre	1	Ryan HS	RHS Theatre Dept.	7	768	44	812	\$1,506.31
Kids Dance	2	TWU	TWU Dance Dept.	15	1,478	104	1,582	\$2,532.50
Ft. Worth Opera**	3	TWU	Ft. Worth Opera	15	1,372	83	1,455	\$2,884.70
Visual Arts	4	Visual Art Cen.	GDAC	13	1,128	66	1,194	\$2,490.19
Wind Symphony	5	UNT	UNT Band Dept.	11	1,020	53	1,073	\$2,165.54
								\$11,579.24
Nutcracker Ballet*	3	TWU	North Texas Ballet	16	1,543	104	1,647	\$2,570.20
*Special Funding Source								
Grand Total (All Programs)					7,309	454	7,763	
**Ticket cost for Ft. Worth Opera = \$2,469.60 @ \$1.80 per student								