

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS  
PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# The VPA Mission



**The Arts can transform lives.** The Mission of the Visual and Performing Arts of the Plymouth Public Schools is to cultivate environments where students are inspired to create, perform, connect, and respond to meaningful Artwork. Every student deserves the opportunity to learn and grow through the visual and performing arts. The VPA is committed to providing a thoughtful and rigorous arts education to our community while making the arts accessible to everyone.

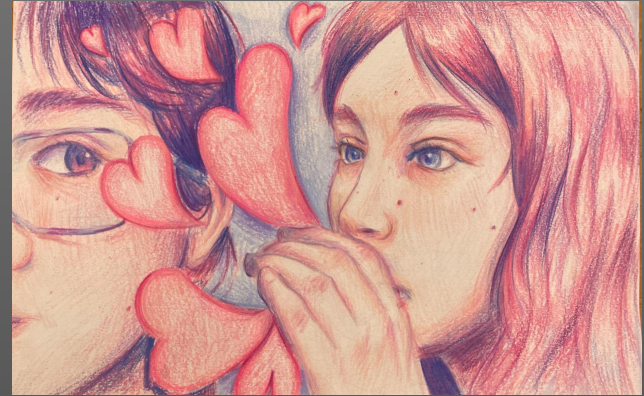
# Just Some of the Highlights!

- Trips...UK, Hawaii, Florida, NYC, and more local Boston arts based field trips. Opening the world outside of Plymouth
- Building Empathy: New research says empathy is like a muscle/skill that can be improved. The arts, specifically, theater can build this skill.
- Plymouth Schools Music Association
- Theatre is Thriving
- 'Six'
- 'Mini WAC'
- Music Immersion
- Connecting PPS Students beyond levels
- Town Tree lighting
- Art in the Community
- 42 Amazing Art and Music Teachers that work tremendously hard for students. It all comes down to the amazing day to day teaching and learning that happens in the arts. Building safe spaces for our students so they can be themselves and take risks!



# What do the Arts Teach? Why do we Teach the Arts?

- Creativity Not Compliance
- There is more than one answer to each question or problem
- The biggest challenge for an Artist is knowing when the work is complete.
- In the Arts you must use your higher order thinking skills (Bloom's Taxonomy)
  - Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and evaluation
- It's about getting better, not about 'winning'
  - Learning in the Arts is about progression
- Persistence and Perseverance
- Communication, Collaboration, Compromise (working as a team)



# Challenges

## *Recruitment and Retention of Staff*

- Space continues to be a major factor
- Reduced numbers of qualified applicants

## *Budget*

- Continued reduction in supply budget

## *Space*

- Lack of dedicated space for art and music teachers
- Using and Managing the Performing Arts Centers

## Mass Core:

- Over 90% of HS students take at least one fine arts class. What can we do in order to reach 100%?
- [23-24' State Data](#)



# Ideas for the Future

- An *'Arts Summit'* where a diverse group of community stakeholders, (teachers, admin, school committee, students, families, alumni, and community partners) come together together to discuss the future of the arts in the Plymouth Public Schools.
- Art and Music at PECC: Perhaps an Arts Therapy Model
- A district wide Arts Therapy
- Middle School Arts Pathway
- An Academic Theatre Program



# *Talent is fixed. Skills Can Improve.*

The Visual and Performing Arts Department strives to build a culture of **improvement** over talent. A culture of **effort** over gifted. A culture of **process** over product.

# Questions/Comments



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