

FINE ARTS OVERVIEW

What Is Fine Arts?

Fine arts as a subject in Alberta includes the disciplines of music, visual arts, dance, and drama. Each of the fine arts disciplines is significant in its own right, with its own specific and unique vocabulary, language, and foundational knowledge. An understanding of the disciplines of fine arts has been formed throughout history and across diverse cultures. In fine arts, students explore inherited traditions, great works, and foundational knowledge within each discipline through opportunities for creating, presenting, appreciating, and responding. Music and visual arts are required courses in Kindergarten to Grade 6, while dance and drama are both optional.

Why Is Fine Arts Important?

Through fine arts, students are empowered to discover themselves as artistic individuals and contributing members of society. Fine arts provides opportunities for students to develop emotionally, physically, intellectually, imaginatively, aesthetically, and socially, allowing them to identify unique talents and develop their personal potential. Lifelong learning is a central tenet of fine arts, providing students with opportunities to transfer skills and knowledge acquired, including literacy and numeracy, to other subject areas. By fostering critical thinking, problem solving, and communication, fine arts provides students with the opportunity to make deeper connections across the Alberta curriculum.

Authentic, hands-on experiences that are personally relevant and meaningful help students communicate and connect their understanding of the world in new and imaginative ways. Development of discipline-specific skills and techniques promotes personal and artistic growth in an atmosphere that is rigorous yet non-competitive, cooperative, supportive, and joyful. Students can take risks, be innovative, and strengthen their sense of purpose, belonging, personal well-being, and resiliency. Experiencing the diversity of the arts and artistic expression throughout history and within various cultures contributes to students' awareness of and appreciation for diverse perspectives. It also allows them to see the truth, beauty, and goodness that is inherent in diverse works of art. Fine arts is vital for fostering a supportive society that develops empathy, intellectual growth, and curiosity.

Music (required)

The music curriculum provides opportunities for students to connect to the world around them through creating, presenting, appreciating, and responding to music. As students become aware of the expressive elements of music, they develop insight into human experience. Foundational knowledge and understanding of the elements of music supports students in developing music literacy and skills through active musical engagement in the areas of singing, playing, listening, moving, reading, and writing. This knowledge serves as the foundation from which students can further develop an understanding of and appreciation for the beauty of music within historical, cultural, and contemporary contexts. Through creative processes, students learn that individual and collaborative music making fosters the expression of ideas, feelings, and experiences.

Visual Arts (required)

Visual arts enables students to express themselves creatively as they grow in their ability to explore, imagine, and represent their understandings of the world through artworks. Foundational knowledge and understanding of the elements and principles of art supports students in developing visual arts literacy and skills. Through creative processes, students learn that individual and collaborative art making fosters meaningful artistic expression. Creating and presenting artworks allows students to express ideas, feelings, and experiences by using artistic vocabulary, skills, media, and methods. Appreciating, interpreting, and responding to works of art prepares students to understand and appreciate enduring historical, cultural, and contemporary works of art and artists.

Dance (optional)

Dance is both a physical activity and a mode of artistic expression in which ideas are expressed and shared. It is an art form in which the dancer is the instrument and movement is the medium. As students cultivate and refine dance skills and techniques, they develop both verbal and non-verbal communication through which they can create, present, appreciate, respond, and connect to the world around them. Creative movement and dance is developed through purposeful engagement with the elements of dance, choreographic forms, devices, and principles. Through creative processes, students learn that individual and collaborative dance fosters the expression of ideas, feelings, and experiences. Cultural literacy in dance is gained through the exploration of historical and contemporary dance forms and traditions.

Drama (optional)

Drama is a medium for individual and group expression that fosters the pursuit of shared goals. Students learn to reflect and collaborate through creative interactions using the body and voice as expressive tools in the development of resiliency, empathy, and confidence. As students cultivate and refine dramatic skills and techniques, they develop both verbal and non-verbal communication through which they can create, present, appreciate, respond, and connect to the world around them. Dramatic processes allow students to develop perspectives through the exploration of characters, moods, and situations within historical, cultural, and contemporary contexts.