

Arizona Academic Standards in the Arts: Articulation in Middle/High School



Philosophy and Rationale for the Arts

The arts are essential in education for they provide students with the means to think, feel, and understand the world around them in ways unique and distinct from other academic disciplines. These skills have been recognized as essential to lifelong success both in and out of school by a variety of education and civic leaders, including the National Association of State Boards of Education, the Education Commission of the States, the Arts Education Partnership, and *BusinessWeek*.

Arts Education in Arizona

Arizona has recognized the importance of arts education for its students in a variety of ways, including:

- Requiring music and visual arts be taught in grades K-8
- Creating high quality certifications (endorsements) for teachers in the areas of dance, music, theatre and visual arts
- Requiring a fine arts high school credit for admission to our state's universities
- Adopting Academic Standards in the Arts, with rigorous, sequential guidelines for creating quality arts education for Arizona's students.

Arts Standards Articulation for Middle and High Schools

- The Arts Standards are divided into four discipline areas: **dance**, **music**, **theatre** and **visual arts**.
- The Arts Standards (Dance, Music, Theatre, Visual Arts) are articulated by **skill level**, reflecting the variety of ways in which the arts are taught in Arizona schools. The skill levels are: **Beginning**, **Intermediate**, **Advanced**, **Distinction** (Honors).
- In **Music**, the skill levels are tied to **performing ensembles**, broken down by Band, Choral and Strings/Orchestra. In addition, there are grade level general music standards available for grades 7 and 8.
- Instead of guessing at the skill level of your student artists, the Department encourages you to view the arts standards in their entirety at <http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp> and choose the appropriate skill level for your students. For guidance on appropriate skill level "fit" please call the Arts Education Specialist at 602-364-1534.

Additional Resources for Arts Education

Additional resources on arts education can be accessed at <http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/arts/> or by calling the Department's Arts Education Specialist at 602-364-1534.