



PILLAR #4 - FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

Mrs. Carrie Leech, Choir Director

Sandusky City Schools continues to provide an unparalleled arts program to a diverse student body in a creative, challenging, and nurturing environment that prepares them to reach their highest potential. Students in all grade levels have access to our professional teachers in the areas of Orchestra, Band, Choir, Dance, Theatre, Graphic Arts and Drawing and Painting. In addition, the Jr. Arts Academy was developed at the elementary level to provide extended-day enrichment for students across the district in grades 3-5 that show an interest or talent in the arts at a more advanced level. This program is supported by Sandusky City Schools, Oberlin Center for the Arts and local grant support. Class offerings include: Choir, hand bells, guitar, dance, theatre and visual arts. Students are bused from their home schools to Ontario at Adams after school where they receive a free meal and tutoring and are able to participate in STEAM activities. The following is a list of the accomplishments of the districts' Fine Arts program:

- The Graphic Design Program did extremely well in the Ohio Scholastic Youth Art Awards Show held at the Art Gallery at Lorain County Community College. Grace Bauman placed fourth in the Northwest Regional Skills USA Advertising Design Skill Olympics.
- The addition of a Great Lakes Visual and Performing Arts Academy (GLVPAA) Course for Band, Choir, Art and Theatre within the school day has allowed one-on-one and small group instruction and advisory time for GLVPAA students. This additional time has provided performance opportunities at The Festival of Wreaths, the 2018 Naturalization Ceremony, The Great Lakes Vocal Festival, The Starlight Serenade, and the Band and Vocal Recitals.
- The choir program has continued to grow with nearly 300 students from grades 7-12 participating. We have added a 7th-9th grade Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus which has allowed us to focus on age- and developmentally-appropriate curriculum and nurture the changing male voice, and the sometimes rocky emotional climate that is present in middle school and early high school. Members of the Choir program have been offered several special performances this year: a night of Opera in Toledo seeing "The Magic Flute," a performance sponsored by the Sandusky Concert Association "O Sole Trio," a special workshop and concert presented by Mr. Michael Shirtz and his Jazz Trio, and most recently a wonderful concert and mini-workshop with Dr. Dionne Bennett from Ohio Christian University. In addition, singers have been selected for District and National Honor choirs in Ohio, New York and Sydney, Australia.
- This year the High School Orchestra hosted their own clinic for the students, which allowed the students to work with guest adjudicators and gain valuable feedback and insight from professional strings players in an educational setting.
- The band program has an amazing retention rate: Higher than 90% throughout the program (grades 7-12).
- The Dance and Theater programs continue to grow, with the addition of Career Tech and full time faculty members for each discipline.

Every aspect of our program promotes our students' growth as bold artists, exceptional learners, and citizens. Our summer offerings are an excellent way to provide students with serious interest in the arts with activities to explore their creativity and advance their abilities. All of our programs provide an enriching experience for students and are essential to recruiting new students to the district.



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2019-2020

GOALS

1. Prepare to realign and move the music departments into the new buildings at the 1-2 and 3-6 levels
2. Discuss and design an elementary arts academy that aligns with the Regional Center for Advanced Academic Studies (RCAAS)
3. Incorporate more Computer Graphics projects into classwork
4. Create an Arts festival on a Saturday in the spring of 2020 with music and art from the entire district including all Fine Arts departments
5. Purchase updated music chairs and stands for the auditorium
6. Resolve scheduling conflicts between the dance/choir programs and the band/general music classes



2020-2021

GOALS

1. Realign and move the music departments into the new buildings at the 1-2 and 3-6 levels
2. Open an elementary arts academy that aligns with RCAAS
3. Obtain curriculum training for elementary music teachers
4. Continue to integrate the new music curriculum into the teachers' lessons
5. Streamline calendar system within the district and individual buildings
6. Acquire a band-only box truck for all of our travel needs



2021-2022

GOALS

1. Evaluate the elementary arts academy that aligns with RCAAS
2. Implement 6th Grade Band at 3-6 Building and RCAAS