

Draft Fine Arts Curriculum

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.