

P.S. ARTS

Edison Elementary School SMMUSD

Made possible in part by your donations to



ABOUT P.S. ARTS

P.S. ARTS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children through arts education. Our goal is to foster an environment where students thrive creatively and academically.

Teaching Artists are experienced educators and have advanced degrees in arts, education, or other relevant fields of study. P.S. ARTS Teaching Artists are practicing artists who integrate their art forms, unique perspectives, and professional skills into the classroom.

Teaching Artists write original curricula based on the California Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Standards as well as Social Justice Standards adopted from the Southern Poverty Law Center, which support implementation of the National Common Core Standards. The program strives to contribute to an overall school climate that is inclusive, creative, and empowered.



P.S. ARTS CONCEPT MODEL SUMMARY

P.S. ARTS programs serve our mission to improve children's lives by fostering their development of knowledge, skills, and social-emotional assets linked to success in school, work, and life. The P.S. ARTS model illustrates the role of arts education in building safe, just, idea-galvanizing schools in which all children can thrive. Finally, it reflects an understanding of the systemic nature of our endeavor by aligning program activities with the four evaluative lenses identified in Harvard University's 2010 report "Qualities of Quality: Student Learning, Pedagogy, Environment, and Community Dynamics."

HOW DID P.S. ARTS COME TO SMMUSD?

P.S. ARTS has been working with title one schools in SMMUSD for years! In 2014, P.S. ARTS was thrilled by the opportunity to expand into all of SMMUSD's 11 elementary schools as part of the district's commitment to arts equity. All students in SMMUSD are receiving 30 weeks of arts instruction in music, theater, and/or visual arts. Each school principal has customized their own school's program and chosen either a single discipline or multi-discipline rotational model in music, theater, and/or visual arts.



WHO PAYS FOR P.S. ARTS SERVICES IN SMMUSD?

- Most of the funding for P.S. ARTS programming comes from your generous donations to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation (now the Santa Monica Education Foundation).
- Additional funding is provided by P.S. ARTS fundraising efforts.

Visit www.PSARTS.org/to-go for FREE Art Projects for the whole family! 

P.S. ARTS AT EDISON

EDISON PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 5TH GRADES

Fall and Spring (Theater – 30 weeks): By creating an imaginative environment through theatrical games, Theater Teaching Artist Martha Ramirez will introduce students at Edison to basic concepts of theater performance, introductory theatrical terminology and vocal and physical expression. Students will explore storytelling and learn about themselves, others and the world around them. Students learn the importance and practice of warming up for performance, and build confidence through varied opportunities for creative expression and leadership. Ms. Ramirez also teaches a visual arts unit to each grade level.

Teaching Theatre is my daily balancing breath. I am learning to teach and teaching to learn. Every day in this, here and now, I discover the genius of children's different way of learning and creating. Whether it be a Kindergarten or 5th grade class, in each arena, I test my own skills, and refine my own craft as a performing artist, in the vigorous discipline of drama. Furthermore, teaching theater in Spanish, at Edison Language Academy, in a unique, bi-lingual Spanish-immersion setting, allows our P.S.ARTS program to foster good will, understanding, and collaboration in this very diverse community.

I frame my philosophy under the overarching umbrella inspired by a Mayan principle, "In Lak Ech," which means, "You are my other me." It can refer to the dramatic experience, actor/audience, tragedy/comedy, antagonist/protagonist, or a deeper reality, same/different, Spanish/English, life/death, ancient/contemporary. By means of sequential units, based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards, I design a creative environment, with clear and engaging lessons, where children feel safe, to enjoy and explore the empowering life-tools of theatre. In this step-by-step approach, students will grasp concepts of drama and develop valuable communication skills. At the end of the school year, students will culminate this experience with a public performance.

– Martha Ramirez, Teaching Artist

How does the class CULMINATE?

P.S. ARTS residencies culminate in "Open Class Informances." Parents and the school community are invited to the arts classroom to witness students sharing the work they have generated and the knowledge and skills they have gained over the course of the residency. Open class Informances may take the form of a student art portfolio display, an informal play or musical performance, readings or other formats; they are often interactive so that you can create art or music alongside your child. Letters home will be provided in advance.

How do I CONNECT?

- Parents who have completed their school's volunteer training requirements are welcome to volunteer in the arts classroom. See your school administrator for more information
- Attend your child's open class Informance.
- Host or attend a P.S. ARTS Family Night at your school.
- Support SMEF and PTA by donating or attending fundraising events.

