

P.S. ARTS

Grant Elementary School SMMUSD

Made possible by your donations to

Santa Monica
Education Foundation



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.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT



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 GRANT

GRANT PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 2ND GRADES

Fall (Visual Arts - 15 weeks): This year, Pre-K through second grade students will be learning from Visual Arts Teaching Artist Lonnie Martinez. P.S. ARTS Visual Arts focuses on student learning aligned with the CA VAPA standards. Students explore elements of art and principals of design including line, color, texture, shape, space, value, and composition. Art history and literacy knowledge grows as students learn about artists and masterworks by describing function, form, and their own critical response.

The privilege to share my love of art and music with children is indescribable. I believe in and have lived the healing power of the arts. Oh what wondrous things we will learn and explore together! – Lonnie Martinez, Teaching Artist

Spring (Music - 15 weeks): Spring semester at Grant will bring music classes taught by Teaching Artists Julia Chanin and Lonnie Martinez. Students will be exploring music using two pedagogies: Kodaly and Orff-Schulwerk. Both are student-centered methods that advocate inquiry based learning, improvisation, and imagination. Students develop awareness of their musicianship skills through the process of discovery as they play instruments, sing songs, and move to music.

Music is inherently social-emotional. When we say that music is a universal language, I believe what we really mean is that it causes us all to feel. There is a magical moment in music class when we tap into a shared feeling, and what's created is a deep sense of belonging. That's why, for me, every day in music class feels like a celebration. --Julia Chanin, Teaching Artist

GRANT 3RD THROUGH 5TH GRADES

Fall (Visual Arts - 30 weeks): Visual Arts Teaching Artists Davida Raffa and Angie Bradshaw will work with the upper grades to explore elements of art and principals of design including line, color, texture, shape, space, value, and composition. Art history and literacy knowledge grows as students learn about artists and masterworks by describing function, form, and their own critical response.

In art there is no finite solution, it is a creative process that relies on ones own perception. Once a student masters the use of the materials, they are only bound by their imagination. I feel so fortunate to be part of the process. – Davida Raffa, 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.

