



Andy Tuck, *Chair*
Marva Johnson, *Vice Chair*
Members
Monesia Brown
Ben Gibson
Tom Grady
Ryan Petty
Joe York

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: February 19, 2021

SUBJECT: **Arts Education Month 2021**

Contact Information:

Erin O'Connor
850-245-0762
Erin.O'Connor@fldoe.org
DPS: 2021-13

Florida is proud to offer high quality dance, theatre, music and visual arts education programs to K-12 students. Through these arts programs, students are challenged with robust and rigorous standards-based instruction that can support academic success across all content areas. With the adoption of Florida's B.E.S.T standards, these programs will be enhanced through inclusion of ELA Expectations and Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning standards in all arts courses. Full implementation is planned for the 2022-23 school year.

Research continues to suggest and support the positive connection between participation in arts programs and academic success. Florida standards for the arts reinforce academic principles of other core subjects in novel, applicable and relevant ways. These programs also offer an attainable and tangible opportunity for all students to access programs that develop character and social skills necessary to contribute to the education of the whole child and fuel the desire for continued success.

As part of celebrating *Arts Education Month* in your schools, consider enriching curriculum by scheduling time for students to learn from local artists, art centers and museums. Encourage administrators and teachers to share their experiences with the arts and how the arts have inspired them both personally and professionally. The department thanks the administrators, teachers and arts education stakeholders who continue to provide excellence and equity in arts education throughout the state of Florida.

If you have additional questions about arts education in Florida, please contact Erin O'Connor in the Bureau of Standards and Instructional Support at 850-245-0762 or by email at Erin.O'Connor@fldoe.org.

JO/eo

cc: School District Principals
School District Fine Arts Supervisors
Florida Teachers

JACOB OLIVA
CHANCELLOR OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS