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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jacob Oliva

DATE: March 4, 2022

SUBJECT: **Arts Education Month 2022**

Contact Information:

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DPS: 2022-13

Florida is proud to offer high-quality dance, theatre, music and visual arts education programs to K-12 students. Through these arts education programs, students are challenged with robust and rigorous standards-based instruction that support academic success across all content areas. With the adoption of Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards, these programs will be enhanced through the incorporation of English Language Arts expectations and Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning standards in all arts courses.

Standards for arts education in Florida enable students to become critical thinkers and problem solvers who are able to thrive in the challenges of the 21st century workforce. Additionally, learning opportunities in arts integration and science, technology, engineering, arts and math initiatives provide students with tangible opportunities to collaborate with peers and highlight cross-curricular academic skills and strengths. All students benefit from access to and engagement with high-quality arts educational experiences, as these experiences lead to deeper engagement both academically and civically.

Throughout the month of March, consider enriching curriculum by scheduling time for students to learn from local artists and musicians; to attend concerts, recitals and theatrical performances; and to visit 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 in arts education throughout the state of Florida.

If you have 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
SENIOR CHANCELLOR