



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

Visual and Performing Arts

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Department Mission Statement: "To provide equal access to quality, standards-based arts instruction in all district schools in dance, music, theatre and visual arts taught by effective, highly qualified teachers."

The Board of Education formally adopted the state academic standards for visual and performing arts in January 2001. The California State Framework provides a coherent structure for teaching dance, music, theatre and visual art through the five strands: Artistic Perception; Creative Expression; Historical and Cultural Context; Connections, Relations and Applications; and Aesthetic Valuing. SDUSD is home to a rich variety of innovative and diverse arts programs.

- VAPA supports the implementation of State content standards through strong instructional strategies with direct support to teachers, administrators, community artists and local arts organizations, including district-wide in-services, monthly meetings, discipline-specific workshops and school site support.
- The nationally recognized *VAPA Core Learnings* document, created by our office, is an explanation of the California VAPA Standards, clarifying the VAPA standards at each grade level and in each arts discipline. It is a valuable tool used by specialists, classroom teachers, administrators and arts organizations when creating, strengthening and/or evaluating programs for arts instruction in the schools. (www.sandi.net/depts/vapa)
- *VAPA Lessons*, grades K-4, have been designed to assist and support classroom teachers in providing quality, standards-based arts instruction in the four VAPA disciplines. The lessons are teacher-friendly, grade-specific and supported by teacher training in order to provide an engaging, standards-based arts experience for all students.
- *Keys to Achievement* is an innovative piano keyboard program available to grades K-2, the foundation of which is a custom developed interactive, self-paced software-directed system using a classroom set of midi-piano keyboards and headsets in a computer lab setting. (www.keystoachievement.org)
- School sites showcase student proficiency through musicals, performances, dance and theatre productions and art exhibitions, throughout the year. VAPA organizes **Honor Concerts and Festivals** celebrating the exceptional talents of students in the areas of choral, band, strings, recorder, theatre and dance at both the elementary and secondary levels. These concerts are made possible by generous donor contributions and private funding. In March, the *Annual District Student Art Exhibition* celebrates and recognizes student visual artists from across the district, amassing over 1,000 pieces of art for display at the Eugene Brucker Education Center every year.
 - More than 30 arts organizations and businesses have formal *partnerships* with SDUSD schools to support arts education in classrooms.
 - *The Grade Level Arts Experience (GLAE) Project* was created to provide SDUSD students (K-9) with a variety of free, grade-level-appropriate, engaging, arts experiences, reflective of the VAPA standards, presented by trained, professional artists at authentic San Diego arts venues. Currently the Project provides programs to grades 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9. For more information contact the VAPA office or visit our web site.
 - *Balboa Park OCILE Program* offers a week-long, hands-on arts and culture experience to all fifth grade students. For more information go to <http://www.sandi.net/balboapark/keyconcepts.htm>
 - VAPA is an active member of the *San Diego Arts Network*, an organization coordinated through the SDCOE, comprised of administrators and arts leaders to promote quality arts instruction and program to students across San Diego County.
 - The California legislature allocated funding to VAPA programs through *state block grants*. Each school site received a proportionate amount of funding based on student enrollment. On-going block grants as they become available will be used to purchase VAPA textbooks, materials and supplies.

SUMMARY

VAPA Supports:

- ❖ Over 300 district Visual and Performing Arts teachers, not including magnet schools
- ❖ Five Arts Magnets: Oak Park, Valencia Park, and Zamorano elementary schools; Creative and Performing Media Arts Middle School; and School of Creative and Performing Arts; and
- ❖ All elementary schools as program office for 29 itinerant elementary instrumental teachers.