



**HAMILTON-
WENTWORTH**
DISTRICT
SCHOOL
BOARD

“ The arts are important for experiencing the joy of creation, developing attention to detail, attaining fulfillment during school and beyond, and learning ways of expressing thoughts, knowledge, and feelings beyond words.

” - Elliott Eisner, 2002



ARTS STRATEGY

A vision and focus for the Arts in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB)

www.hwdsb.on.ca

ALL STUDENTS ACHIEVING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL



Our commitment...

To Students

All HWDSB students will have equitable access to a balanced and comprehensive arts education, based on the Ontario Arts Curriculum (K-12), that develops their critical and creative thinking, collaboration and communication skills.

Learning in, about and through the arts:

- develops the ability to generate ideas and bring them to life, appreciate, think critically, collaborate, explore and experiment, problem solve and reflect (Creative Process).
- develops transferable skills in observation, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation (Critical Analysis Process).
- develops thinking that can be communicated and applied to other areas of the curriculum enhancing student achievement and engagement in literacy and numeracy.
- develops personal identity and self esteem, values, beliefs, well-being, and understanding of self and others in our diverse world.
- develops a love of the arts, enriching future experiences as audience members and enhancing personal and cultural identity.

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The artistic process offers meaningful modes of learning and self-expression for students from diverse cultural backgrounds. Students are more likely to engage and succeed in schools where their way of knowing and ways of being are honoured.

- UNESCO Road Map for Arts Education,
Report for Canada, 2012

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To Staff

HWDSB will support the professional learning and capacity building of educators in the arts through rich educational experiences that enhance achievement, engagement and equity for all students.

Learning in, about and through the arts:

- provides fundamental concepts, skills, and expectations in the arts curriculum which recognizes the continuum of learning K-12.
- provides effective integration of the arts using high yield strategies including differentiated instruction (within all curriculum subject areas).
- provides opportunities for emerging (generalist) and established (specialist) teachers in pursuit of life-long learning in the arts for elementary and secondary teachers.
- provides a variety of opportunities for teachers of the arts to collaborate, plan and learn together in professional learning environments.

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The power of arts experiences lies in the engagement of the whole being. Teachers must themselves be thus engaged if the arts are to attain their transforming power. If the child is to feel the art alive within themselves, so must the teacher.

- Arts Education for the Development of the
Whole Child, 2012. Dr. Rena Uptis

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To the Community

HWDSB will collaborate with parents, school communities and partners (internal and external) to provide, support and celebrate meaningful arts experiences for all students to appreciate the value of the visual and performance arts for and by others.

Learning in, about and through the arts:

- supports students learning through cultural experiences, all career pathways, and an appreciation of the arts in the real world.
- allows students to fully explore their creativity, and celebrate their experiences with each other and the community.
- allows students to value their own and others contribution to the creative process and to the performance or product.

Arts Community Partnerships:

- with individuals, groups, organizations (local & national) from the voluntary, amateur and professional sectors, partnerships are developed strategically and supported effectively to enhance student learning in the arts.
- offer opportunities and experiences that bring the arts to life in the community and allow for an appreciation and sustainability in our student's lives.

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At the heart of arts partnerships lies the premise that the discipline, co-operation, creativity, and self-esteem developed in the arts are essential life skills, and that these skills can be taught by teachers and artists working in partnership.

- Angela Elster, Vice-President Academic,
The Royal Conservatory and LTTA

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Inside each of us is an artist... that's what an artist is, a child who has never lost the gift of looking at life with curiosity and wonder. Art is not the exclusive possession of those who can draw, write poems, act, make music or design buildings. It belongs to all those who can see their way through all things with imagination.

- Arthur Lismer: Artist and Art Educator,
Art Gallery of Ontario Archives

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Education in the arts develops students' imaginations, increases their motivation to learn and allows them to achieve at higher levels. For many students, schools provide their first and, for some, their only experience of the arts.

- People for Education Annual Report, 2011

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HWDSB believes in equity and excellence in arts education (dance, drama, music, visual arts and media arts) for all students through comprehensive arts programming directly supporting HWDSB Strategic Directions and Annual Operating Plan.

The Arts Strategy is an important step in achieving a more coordinated and focused approach to improved arts programming and services for our students in HWDSB and addresses the continuum of learning in the Arts K-12.



Learning IN the arts refers to learning the specific knowledge and skills of a particular art form.

Learning ABOUT the arts is generally an integral part of the arts program and allows the student to understand and appreciate works of art as well as the function and history of a particular art form.

Learning THROUGH the arts involves arts lessons to teach concepts that are being studied in other subjects of the curriculum (geometric forms in a visual arts lesson to help with mathematics) or a skill (for example conflict resolution through drama). This approach is also called integration and can support Differentiated Instruction and Multiple Learning Styles. The arts are used in this way to teach other subjects or are integrated into other subjects.

HWDSB is committed to awarding arts education a central position in the educational experience of elementary and secondary school students ensuring opportunities are created for every student to participate in quality arts programming and to develop an appreciation of all arts. Students should not be negatively impacted in their arts learning just because of geographic area, income level, or special need. By working together, we can impact change in the way the arts is perceived and taught in our schools and help all our students to achieve their full potential.