

POLICY

SECTION:	EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SERVICES	POLICY:	D-11
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It is the goal of the District School Board of Niagara's Arts Program to make the Arts integral to the complete education of every child. Students will have the opportunity to receive a balanced and comprehensive Arts Program which supports the development of communication, leadership, creativity, and critical thinking.

It is the policy of the District School Board of Niagara to provide comprehensive education in the Arts according, yet not limited, to current Ministry of Education curriculum standards. Through the arts, respect and knowledge of a variety of cultures will be fostered. Students and teachers are encouraged to use materials that are ecologically sound and encourage eco-sustainability awareness.

The Board supports, through a variety of means, comprehensive personal and professional development in the Arts for teachers. The Board is committed to assisting teachers with Arts Programs and to providing leadership in the development, implementation, maintenance, and review of Arts Programs.

Curricular Program

The Board supports an Arts education that provides every student with the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of artistic explorations, investigations, and expressions. The curriculum areas are: Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Visual Arts, and Media Arts. In the Elementary School Arts Program, students should be involved with aspects of each Arts strand. As students advance through the Secondary School Arts Program, areas of specialization may be available.

Co-curricular Program

The Board recognizes the value of including Arts performances and exhibitions in the curriculum of each school. Involvement of students individually or as members of a group in co-curricular Arts activities at the school and district level is encouraged. The purpose of the Arts Program is to develop within the students an appreciation for, and an interest in, the Arts which will foster their personal growth and development.

Community Partnerships

The Board endorses visits to arts venues, linking the learning process in schools with arts organizations in the community, and involving professional artists to complement and enrich school programs. The Board encourages the schools and students of the District School Board of Niagara to interact with the local communities by providing exhibitions and performances at suitable venues.