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**VISTA ACADEMY**  
OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The mission of Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (VAVPA) is to educate students in an environment which encourages creativity, self-awareness and self expression through an appreciation of the visual and performing arts. We are committed to every child achieving and exceeding the academic standards within the vision of an integrated arts approach.

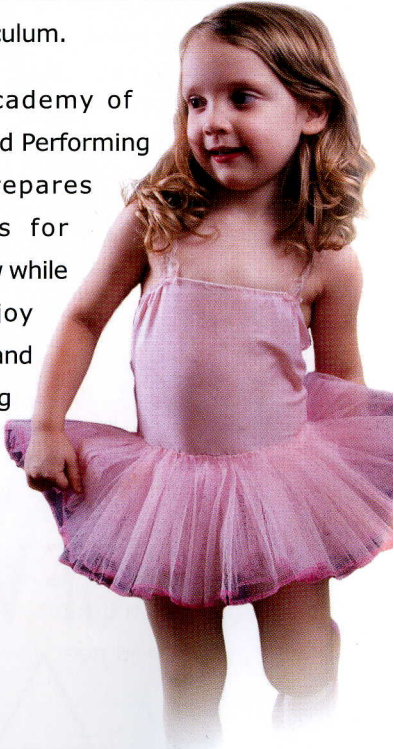
Our goal is to accelerate student learning by emphasizing the arts. The VAVPA magnet program is unique because the arts are taught as core academic subjects, fully integrated into each student's daily learning schedule. This is accomplished without compromise by providing a complete, standards-based academic program comprised of language arts, math, social studies, science, music, dance, drama, visual arts and physical education.

The VAVPA community embraces this vision. Classroom teachers, arts

teachers, classified staff, and parent groups which include a strong PTA and the Vista Academy Foundation, work together facilitating student achievement.

VAVPA's curriculum and educational strategies are based on research and positive results. In addition to increased academic performance, arts-integrated programs stimulate development of favorable character traits; such as, being responsible, interacting with others, problem solving, being highly motivated and making connections across the curriculum.

Vista Academy of Visual and Performing Arts prepares students for tomorrow while they enjoy learning and creating today.



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Studies have pointed to the effectiveness of academic curriculum and the arts integration.

***"Arts-integrated schools make clear that the arts are not just affective and expressive. They are deeply cognitive. When the arts are an interdisciplinary partner with other subjects, they generate the conditions that cognitive scientists and education researchers say are ideal for learning. The curriculum becomes more hands-on and project-based. It offers students authentic and challenging intellectual work. Learning in all subjects becomes visible through the arts, and student work becomes the basis of thoughtful assessment. Teachers' opinions and expectations of their students rise."***

Arts Education: Not All Is Created Equal, Nick Rabkin & Robin Redmond, Education Week, April 13, 2005

At VAVPA, students are not only better learners, they feel good. A realistic sense of self-esteem and accomplishment is established because the whole student is educated. In a world where ideas and information are often delivered visually, children need to learn how

to analyze and judge the meaning of images, read and think with clarity and communicate their own ideas effectively.

Through the performing and fine art experiences, students cultivate self-expression, imagination, creativity, critical-thinking and problem-solving skills. Taking a project from concept to completion, individually or as part of a group, provides an effective foundation students will need in later years of higher education and eventually in the workplace. Today's educators and business leaders consider these skills and attributes vital to individual achievement and America's progress.

Thus, academic education redefined with the arts and through the arts is essential. For these reasons, VAVPA's complete approach to learning and student development includes standardized traditional academics together with a comprehensive and standardized arts education for students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

VAVPA  
—ARTS  
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