

# Arts

## RESULTS POLICY 4

*Students will use the arts for self-expression, as a tool to understand others, and to increase their knowledge of other cultures and history.*

### District Strategies, Programs And Operations

A quality Fine Arts program is based on clear and concise guidelines for what a student should know and be able to do in each Fine Arts Class. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills are required to be taught in all enrichment courses, including the Fine Arts, as well as all foundation academic courses. One hundred percent of elementary school students, 80 percent of middle schoolers, and 68 percent of high schoolers were enrolled in art or music classes in 2004-2005.

It is the philosophy of AISD's Fine Arts Department to actively:

- 1) Build musical literacy while respecting diverse methodologies/systems of all music teachers in AISD,
- 2) Provide opportunities for the experience and development of critical thinking skills, critical judgment, creative processes, analysis and independence of self-expression, and
- 3) Provide a diversity of musical experiences and musical literature from all cultures, genres, styles and periods.

Austin students may explore the performing and visual arts through many specialized courses in Art, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theatre Arts, and Dance. Every student—at every grade level—has the opportunity to experience, learn, and grow through the arts.

### Students will use the visual and performing arts for

#### Artistic Perception

To develop intellect, and  
To understand underlying concepts of various art forms.

#### Creative Expression

As a tool for communication,  
An outlet for self-expression, and  
To take risks and share themselves/their passion with others.

#### Historical and Cultural Heritage

As a tool to understand people, their cultures, and their place in time  
To develop confidence, and  
To improve critical thinking.

#### Response and Evaluation

To improve based on self-criticism

### Student Progress

This policy was monitored by the Board of Trustees on November 14, 2005.

*"We have had tremendous success with our four sons attending AISD. Because of the great education they've received, they have been able to attend great universities."*

Juan & Margo Portillo, Owners, Tramex Travel  
Son, Michael Portillo, 16