

“Arts in Education”

The Cypress School District has always recognized the importance of the arts and the link to student learning. In this time of budget and program cuts, schools are using several programs to continue providing arts for students.

Arnold School has a parent volunteer who comes every Wednesday, to provide music to students. The parent works with grade levels on alternating weeks, so that each grade level has music every other week for a 45 minute block. The students participate in activities that include singing, dancing, and learning about rhythm, musical terminology, and musical instruments. In addition, PTA provides assemblies that address the arts.

At **King School**, students have the opportunity to be a part of an annual school musical play. There are several ways for students to participate, including a leading role or supporting cast member role in front of the audience, or working back stage as part of the crew. Staff members and volunteers create colorful costumes, painted backdrops, and props for the production. Recent productions have included Peter Pan and Aladdin.

At **Landell, Luther, and Morris** schools, students are offered the “Meet the Masters,” an award winning art curriculum and art education program for elementary students that teaches art appreciation through multimedia presentations. The program uses interactive assemblies with costumes, music, and other images to provide an introduction to the arts. Children learn about the lives and works of master artists, and students also have an opportunity to create their own “masterpieces” based on the work of the featured artist. This program is completely supported by the school PTAs.

Vessels School participates in the Art Masters Program, which introduces students to art by studying specific artists. Lessons are provided with assemblies that include information about an artist’s life, techniques, and work. Following the assembly, trained artists lead each class in an art project that reflects each artist’s style, chosen medium, and artistic technique. This year, through the PTA’s support, students were fortunate to learn about and produce artwork for three different artists.

Research has shown that art education can improve student scores in core subjects up to 20 percent. The Cypress School District believes art education is an important element of the elementary education experience. The District appreciates the support of our PTA groups in providing funds and volunteers for our programs.