

Youth in Arts®

UPDATE ON STARS (Sequential Thematic Arts Reaching all Schools)

Last fall, the Larkspur School District and Youth in Arts began developing a comprehensive model arts education program that will provide students with arts learning experiences building from grade level to grade level and connecting with California state standards for Visual And Performing Arts. This program is now known as STARS - Sequential Thematic Arts Reaching all Schools.

Utilizing seed funds from the Corte Madera Larkspur Community Schools Foundation and the Marin Community Foundation, Youth in Arts will focus on the visual arts component of STARS for academic year 2007-08. Major funding for the fully realized Visual And Performing Arts Curriculum and Instruction Program is pending Spring, 2008. As funding allows, STARS will gradually incorporate new program elements, with the full program of Music, Dance, Theater and New Media beginning in 2010.

Results from February's School Wide Arts Surveys (completed by both parents and teachers) indicated a strong interest in creating sustainable multidisciplinary arts learning programs. In March, Youth in Arts provided districtwide training for teachers in Arts Integration techniques (see May District newsletter). In May, at the STARS Community Arts Planning evening, stakeholders including administrators, board members, teachers, parents and art providers, developed goals for a Five Year Vision Plan. These goals will be used to create assessment tools for the program with Project Evaluator Dr. Liz Lindsely.

YOUTH IN ARTS	TEACHER	STUDENTS	COMMUNITY
Articulated K-8 Standards-Based Arts Curriculum	Ongoing Teacher Development in Arts Education	Students as Artists & A Celebration of Student Art Work	Arts as a Catalyst for Learning, with dedicated Visual Arts Facilities

With input from the Superintendent, Principals and Lead Teams, this academic year, the following visual arts program will include:

- K-5th grade - 12 Visual Arts Sessions for each student led by YIA Mentor Artists
- 6th-8th grade - 16 Visual Arts Sessions for each student led by YIA Mentor Artists
- Increased Professional Development for YIA Mentor Artists
- Each unit culminating with documented and assessed curricula
- Increased communication between Teachers and Artists in the classroom

Items to be determined/scheduled include:

Creating Arts Learning Communities

- Increased professional development for all teachers (potentially districtwide)
- Follow-up lesson plans for teachers
- Community Arts Celebration of student work
- Set District Arts Committee dates/times