 Creating a School Arts Team Worksheet

*An essential strategy of the Creative Advantage Arts Plan is the formation of a principal-led school arts team whose role is develop the right plan for their unique school community to ensure that all of their students have access to learning though the arts.*

**What will the school arts team do?**

School arts teams will initially attend a 3-hr workshop to learn about components of quality arts education and review their school and regional arts access data. Then the school arts team will participate in two facilitated planning meetings to develop an arts vision and an articulated action plan - a multiyear, school-wide road map that outlines decisions about arts staffing, integrated arts, professional development, and how to connect school-community arts partnerships to their school’s goals.

**Who should be on the school arts team?**

The 6-8 person team should reflect the school’s individual character and community. Invite staff, parents/guardians and community members already involved in the arts, but also consider inviting those who have not previously shown an interest in the arts.

**Consider:**

* Who in your school community could be key in moving the arts forward?
* Committed individuals from inside as well as outside the school walls.
* Are there particular parents & guardians who have skills that may be useful?
* Are there businesses or arts organizations nearby who could lend support?
* What types of skill sets could be key for success?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type**  | **Names of candidates** | **Contacted? (Y/N)** |
| **School leader(1)** – Principal or assistant principal required |  |  |
| **Arts staff (1-2)\*** |  |  |
| **Non-arts staff (2-3)\*** – Mix of grade levels and subject experts. Other specialists such as PE and library share schedules with arts, so could be useful voices to include on the team. |  |  |
| **Parents/Guardians (1-2)** – Mix of PTA/non-PTA members. Consider parents of younger students who will be around for a few years. |  |  |
| **Community artists/orgs (1-2)** – Someone who is already working in your school.  |  |  |
| **Student for secondary school teams (1-2)** A great way to ensure that student voice is in your arts plan. |  |  |

*\*For each school the district has budgeted for a total of* ***3 SEA represented arts committee members*** *for up to 9 hours in the first year and 5 hours in the second year of school arts planning. If meeting times are outside the contracted day, they will be paid the negotiated rate. For meetings held during the school day, subs will be funded.*

Text for invitation to join a School Arts Team…

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We know that students who participate in the arts are more successful in school and life; and arts in schools increases student engagement and attendance, raises graduation rates, lowers disciplinary rates, and promotes overall academic gains.

This year, our school is part of a K-12 regional cohort that will implement the Creative Advantage Arts Plan - working together to ensure that all students in our area will have opportunities to learn through the arts.

The first step for our school is to form a school arts team that will develop a multi-year vision and action plan for expanding the arts. I invite you to join the team along with arts teachers, non-arts teachers, families, a community arts partner, and me.

This year, school arts teams will initially attend a 3-hr workshop to learn about components of quality arts education and to discuss strategies for creating an arts-rich school. Then, the school arts team will participate in two facilitated planning meetings to develop an arts vision and an articulated action plan - a multiyear, school-wide road map that outlines decisions about arts staffing, integrated arts, professional development, and how to connect school-community arts partnerships to their school’s goals.

In following years, the school arts team will meet regularly throughout the year to track implementation of the arts plan and to plan for the following year.

I hope that you will consider joining us!