



Community Unit School District 303

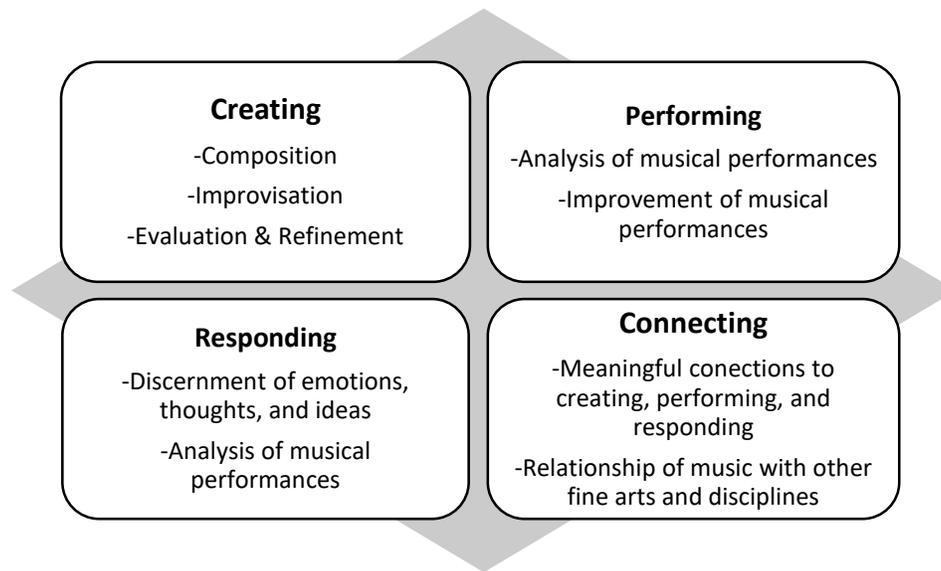
Dear Parent/Guardian,

We know there are a multitude of factors that contribute to a child's success in school. At a minimum, classroom success takes dedicated teachers, adequate resources, and a rich curriculum.

Last year a team of teachers dedicated time to understanding the [National Core Arts Standards](#) and identified both the curricular and instructional shifts to achieve those standards in their classrooms. The team maintained their focus on developing curriculum that is:

- Student-centered,
- Rigorous, spanning diverse content with depth, breadth, and clear learning targets,
- An essential part of every K-5 student's whole education,
- Balanced between classroom learning and public performance,
- Written to promote high quality instruction over performance quantity, and
- Equitable for all D303 students.

The National Core Arts Standards is an Artistic Process that guides educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in Pre-K through high school. The Artistic Processes outlined below are the cognitive and physical actions where learning and making are realized in all areas within Fine Arts, including music.



According to the 4 overarching goals (Imagine, Plan and Make, Evaluate and Refine, and Present) of these rigorous standards, each of the 4 Artistic Processes should be equal across the curriculum. In order to achieve that balance, formal performances will be conducted at grades 1, 3, and/or 5 (a minimum of at least two of the three grade levels) in each elementary school across the district.

Throughout this school year, our teachers will be working to validate our curriculum and analyze the needed time for successful implementation.

We appreciate your ongoing support and partnership,

District 303 Department of Learning and Teaching