

ARTS EDUCATION

ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education is a required course of study in the Province of Saskatchewan, which involves four strands: art, music, drama and dance.

The aim of Arts Education is “to enable students to understand and value arts expressions throughout life. This one aim describes the main outcome for students and the primary reason for including Arts Education in the core curriculum for all students.”

Saskatchewan Arts Education Curriculum Guide

The philosophy of Arts Education is as follows:

The Arts Education Curriculum has been developed for all students in the province. For this reason, the program is broad in scope and includes a diverse range of experiences. “Arts” includes fine arts, popular arts, traditional arts, craft, commercial and functional arts with the understanding that there is very much overlap among these categories.

Saskatchewan Arts Education Curriculum Guide

The content of the Arts Education Curriculum in both English and Immersion streams is almost identical.

The curriculum guides for Arts Education are available from the Service Center.

BAND

The band program is offered as a board approved option of study for students in grades 6-9 and is offered as a credit course at the high school level. The board policy making reference to the band program is policy HBH.

Students begin the band program in grade 6, with a recruiting process taking place with grade 5 students in the spring prior to their entry into grade 6. Through a process of instrument selection and discussion by the student and parents with the band teacher an instrument is decided upon for the student.

The vast majority of the instruments are provided by the home; a few of the larger, more expensive instruments are provided by the school division. Those instruments available to students from the school division are subject to a yearly fee, the purpose of which is to maintain the inventory of band equipment.

Students receive **twice weekly band instruction** during the school day. In grade 7 and 8, the division has historically offered the Tuesday After School Band Program, at which students who wish additional time performing on their instrument are instructed by one of the band teachers. This occurs in several places throughout the city.

Equipment for the band program is purchased through the budget of the Coordinator - Arts Education/Social Studies. However, please note that **music stands are considered school furniture**, and are purchased through individual school budgets. The only exception to that is the provision of music stands to those locations where after school band is held, given that an after school band group will require more music stands than might be required for a single class of band students.

Repairs to band equipment are made through a repair budget of the Coordinator - Arts Education/Social Studies. A procedure is in place which now operates very smoothly.

At the high school level, band is offered as a credit course. In addition, band students at the high school level have the opportunity to perform in extracurricular activities such as band and perhaps also to perform in the high school musical.

PIANOS

All schools in our division, with the exception of Joe Duquette High School and the Farm School have at least one acoustic piano. The piano inventory and all aspects relating to the inventory are administered by the Coordinator of Arts Education/Social Studies. This includes placement of pianos, movement of pianos between schools, tuning, repairs, and purchase.

The division presently has a program of **tuning** a minimum of once a year, usually around November. Other tuning takes place on an "as requested" basis. All requests for tuning should be directed to the Coordinator of Arts Education/Social Studies. **Schools are requested not to contact tuners directly.**

Piano Safety in Schools

School Administrators are cautioned that any piano is a very heavy object, regardless of size or mechanism for movement (size of the wheels, or specially designed piano cradles). **Students should move pianos only under supervision by a responsible adult.** In addition to the possibility of severe injury to a student should a piano be tipped over, the cost of repairs to an instrument that has been damaged in this way is very expensive.

EVENTS

Knights of Columbus Carol Festival

The Knights of Columbus Carol Festival was started in 1957. It is sponsored by the Saskatoon Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Our school division has been a part of it since its inception. The format has gone through some changes through the years, but the present format has remained as is for a number of years now.

The Knights of Columbus Carol Festival takes place every December for two nights, a Monday and a Tuesday. Dates for the festival are presently in place until 2005.

Participating schools for any given year are chosen from a **rotation list**. Schools perform two years in a row at the Knights of Columbus Carol Festival, then one year at the Noon Festival of Carols. Participation is not considered optional.

A theme is chosen for the festival each year, usually something fairly broad in nature to provide the greatest possible latitude for choice of repertoire and presentation. An information package is sent to schools in September, with two deadlines: one for selection of evening, the other for all information to be submitted. The focus of this festival is the Catholic and religious dimension of Christmas, celebrating the Birth of Christ.

The day of the first evening's performance is the dress rehearsal for both evenings. The schools performing on Monday evening rehearse Monday morning, and those performing Tuesday evening rehearse Monday afternoon.

Transportation to the rehearsal during the school day on Monday is provided through the budget at the Board Office. Transportation of students to the Centennial Auditorium both evenings is the responsibility of the students and the school.

Please note that substitute teachers are not provided for those teachers who are a part of the dress rehearsal. Generally, internal arrangements are made to cover their absence from the school.

Noon Festival of Carols

The Noon Festival of Carols is a collaborative project of the Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium, the two city school divisions, and community music groups. It occurs in December for a two week period before Christmas. It takes place at the Centennial Auditorium. Our school division is responsible for providing performances during four noon hours of this festival. Typically, each hour is divided into three performance times of 20 minutes, each of which is selected by a different school. On any given year, the schools that are designated to participate are part of the rotation list for this festival and the Knights of Columbus Carol Festival. Participation is not considered optional.

Transportation is provided by the school division for those groups attending the festival.

The music for this festival can be either sacred or secular.

Mendel Art Gallery Student Art Show

“School Art” is a project of the Mendel Art Gallery, in cooperation with the two Saskatoon school divisions, and recently with some of the private schools here in the city. The time of year at which it occurs varies from later in the school year (e.g. mid April to late May) or earlier (e.g. mid March to the end of April). As with most events of this nature, there have been some changes to the format and the procedures involved with this exhibition. At present, the Mendel sets the time line for the exhibition.

Our schools are asked to submit art to the Mendel on a particular day. The following day, a selection committee comprised of a representative from the Mendel, and a representative from each of the two school divisions selects the art which will form the exhibition that year. Art not selected for the Mendel Art Gallery is returned to the schools through the division’s delivery system. There is a public reception and opening, typically on a Sunday afternoon. When the exhibition is over, the art is removed and returned to the schools through the system delivery.

Participation is not considered optional.

Saskatoon Music Festival

The Saskatoon Music Festival is organized by the Saskatoon Music Festival Association under the umbrella of the Saskatchewan Music Festival Association. Participation by our schools is encouraged, but is optional. Typically, classroom teachers enter music classes or choral speech classes. There is also a band section to the Saskatoon Music Festival, and it is one that has grown in popularity over the last several years with our band teachers.

The board office pays fees for groups entering the Festival but not solos, duets, trios or other small ensembles. Any music required is also paid for by the Board Office. Transportation and other costs are the responsibility of the school.

Participation in the Music Festival can be a very worthwhile experience for students. The performance on the day is the goal, but the real work and the real learning comes from the preparation for the performance. Adjudicators are more understanding and teacher friendly than they have been in the past. Adjudications are more likely to take the form of workshops and contribute to the value of this experience.

Northern Saskatchewan International Childrens’ Festival

This is not a program of the school division, but can provide opportunity for learning experiences directly related to arts education, as well as being fun. Transportation and costs relating to participation in this event are the responsibility of the school.

Attendance is optional.

“Flicks Film Festival”

Saskatoon now hosts a childrens’ film festival usually held in March. This is not a program of the school division. Once again however, there are opportunities for specific kinds of learnings relating to arts education, religion, media education, literature and social issues which can be of benefit to the student. Costs relating to this festival are the responsibility of the school.

Attendance is optional.