



MEMORANDUM

June 17, 2025
Regular Board Meeting

TO	Board of Trustees
FROM	Shauna Boyce, Superintendent
ORIGINATOR	Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent
RESOURCE	Linda Madge-Arkininstall, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning
GOVERNANCE POLICY	Board Policy 1: Division Foundational Statements Board Policy 2: Role of the Board Board Policy 12: Role of the Superintendent
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE	BP 1: Vision, Foundational Statements BP 2: Education Planning and Programming <i>Education Act: 19-23, 33, 196-197</i>
SUBJECT	FINE ARTS REPORT

PURPOSE

For information. No recommendation required.

BACKGROUND

The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing, for its students and their parents, an education system organized and operated in the students' best interests. It exercises this responsibility through setting of local educational policy and the wise use of resources. A continued focus on fine arts education supports our students' success and well-being.

REPORT SUMMARY

This Fine Arts Report provides an overview Fine Arts Programming as summarized from the *Alberta Programs of Study*, and currently in place across the Division. The report additionally celebrates notable fine arts achievements and programming across the Division.

Administration would be pleased to respond to any questions.

SJ:ly



Instructional Services: Fine Arts Report

June, 2025

Presented to the Board of Trustees, June 17, 2024

Scott Johnston, Associate Superintendent, Education and System Services

Resources: Linda Madge-Arkininstall, Division Principal, Literacy and Lifelong Learning

Our Students Possess the confidence, resilience, insight and skills required to thrive in, and positively impact, the world.

BACKGROUND

Fine arts education remained a vibrant and integral part of our schools during the 2024-2025 school year, enriching student learning across all grade levels. These programs are more than just creative outlets; they are vital components of our broader learning environments that are inclusive, engaging, and supportive.

Through the fine arts, students experienced diverse perspectives, developed personal resilience, and engaged in meaningful, real-world learning that prepares them for lifelong success. Our courses are intentionally designed to be relevant, responsive, and deeply connected to students' lives and interests.

FINE ARTS PROGRAMS OF STUDY

In alignment with Alberta's *Fine Arts Program of Study*, Parkland School Division offers students a variety of opportunities to engage in Art, Music, Drama, and related disciplines. These subjects are explored not only through the prescribed curriculum but also through Career and Technology Foundations (CTF), Career and Technology Studies (CTS), and Locally Developed Courses (LDCs).

Schools across the division tailor their fine arts programming to reflect the diverse interests and needs of their students, offering learning experiences through classroom instruction, extracurricular clubs, and specialized course offerings that support creativity, collaboration, and personal expression.



ELEMENTARY ART

The elementary visual arts program is built on four key components:

- Reflection,
- Depiction,
- Composition, and
- Expression.

Through these key components, students develop artistic skills, enhance their perspective, and learn to communicate visually. They also gain an appreciation for cultural expression and begin to see the value of art in everyday life.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC

The elementary music program fosters the development of musical skills and knowledge while encouraging creativity and self-expression. Through engaging activities, students gain a deeper appreciation for music, including the diverse cultural traditions represented in Canada.

ELEMENTARY DRAMA

The elementary drama program encourages students to explore theatre as an art form while building communication skills and self-awareness. Through dramatic play, they develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others and gain an appreciation for drama's culture and artistic value.

SECONDARY ART

The secondary art program follows a structured, progressive curriculum focused on three key areas:

- Developing drawing techniques;
- exploring image composition to express meaning and emotion; and
- engaging with visual art to form personal interpretations and insights.

SECONDARY MUSIC

The secondary music program focuses on building students' skills in listening, performing, and reading music. It encourages both individual excellence and collaboration, while fostering creativity, self-expression, and a deeper appreciation for a wide range of musical styles. Students also explore music's history and cultural significance.



SECONDARY DRAMA

The secondary drama program aims to deepen students' understanding of themselves and others through active participation and reflection. It develops communication skills across different dramatic disciplines and fosters a lasting appreciation for drama and theatre as both an art form and creative process.

CHORAL MUSIC

The choral music program supports students in developing their singing abilities with proper technique, reading musical notation, and refining listening skills to critically appreciate music. It encourages creative expression through composing and improvisation, fosters an understanding of music's history and cultural importance, and promotes instructional skills to enhance vocal performance.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The senior high instrumental music program offers a structured, sequential approach to musical learning. It develops students' performance skills, enhances their listening ability, and critical judgment. The program encourages creative self-expression, expands students' understanding of music history and its connection to world history. It also fosters a deeper appreciation of and enjoyment in music.

HIGH SCHOOL FINE ARTS PROGRAMMING

In Parkland School Division, Fine Arts programming in Grades 10-12 offers students a wide range of opportunities to explore their creative interests and develop their artistic abilities. The core Fine Arts Program of Studies includes Art, Drama, and Music, with Music offered in three distinct streams: Choral, General, and Instrumental.

In addition to these core offerings, students can further enrich their experience through a variety of Locally Developed Courses. Locally Developed Courses are Alberta Education-approved courses created by school authorities to meet specific student needs and reflect local priorities, interests, and expertise. In Parkland School Division, these may include:

Fine Arts:	Ceramics	Portfolio Art	Film and Media Art
Advanced Acting	Touring Theatre	Musical Theatre	Performing Arts
Technical Theatre	Guitar	Instrumental Jazz	Applied Graphic Arts

These opportunities offer students multiple ways to explore and connect with the arts during their high school years.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FINE ARTS PRODUCTIONS IN PSD

This year has been marked by numerous celebrations of creativity, expression, and collaboration across our division. The following highlights showcase the vibrancy and impact of our Fine Arts programs throughout Parkland School Division:

Choir and Music Performances

- School Concerts,
- Talent Shows,
- Remembrance Day Choir Performances,
- Sing for Santa,
- Participation in the St. Albert Rotary Music Festival,
- Eight students selected for the Alberta Children's Choir,
- Harmonize Your Soul - a full day with guest specialists and alumni,
- Choral Concert and performance at *From Shadows to Light*, the Edmonton Epilepsy Association Convention,
- Singing at the Oil Kings Game,
- Concert with the Korora Choir Association,
- ACC Gala Performance at the Winspear,
- Concert with Vocal Collective,
- Canada West Music Festival,
- Alberta Provincial Music Festival,
- Canadian Western Choral Nationals, and
- Leduc Music Festival.

Band Activities

- Band Startup Clinic (in-school field trip),
- Band performances for Christmas and Spring Concerts,
- Band Collaboration at SGCHS,
- Grade 6 Band students collaborated with University of Alberta students in a mentoring workshop,
- Festival of Bands hosted by the Alberta Band Association, and
- Grade 6 Band and Concert Band participate in a fundraising event called Taste & Sound.

Drama and Theatre Productions

- Bringing Down the House - grade 7-9 production,
- Willy Wonka Jr. - Junior High production,
- Grade 7-9 One-Act plays,
- Trickster Theatre production,
- Beetlejuice Junior,
- Snowed-In Concert, and
- Elves and Shoemaker.

Visual Arts Showcases & Contributions

- Student artwork featured in the school newsletter,
- Participating in the Allied Arts Show,
- Student Art is displayed in a rotating exhibit in the main school hallway,
- Leather Tooling in CTF courses,
- Indigenous Mural created by a student and installed, and
- Artist in Residence, Angela Hall, works with K-6 students.

Additional Highlights

- Open stages and professional workshops,
- Collaborations across schools,
- Attendance and performances at community events like the Meridan Christmas Market and the Town of Stony Plain Remembrance Day Ceremony,
- Performances by the Ryan Snow Band and Dufflebag Theatre,
- Students attended the Cantando Music Festival in Whistler, BC ,
- Sound School at the Winspear,
- Handbell performances, and
- Thirty students traveled to New York to participate in three workshops - Acting, Singing, and Movement with Broadway professionals from “Moulin Rouge”, “Little Shop of Horrors”, and Juilliard.

CELEBRATING THE ARTS IN PARKLAND SCHOOL DIVISION

Alongside a variety of school-based holiday events, concerts, and productions, Parkland School Division proudly hosts the annual Choral Celebration and Visual Arts Celebration.

VISUAL ARTS CELEBRATION AT ÉCOLE BROXTON PARK

École Broxton Park School hosted the Visual Arts Celebration on April 29 and April 30, 2025. The event featured a wide array of student artwork from kindergarten through Grade 12, representing all 23 schools in the division. It provided an enriching experience for our young artists and their families, attracting several hundred visitors. Additionally, 45 pieces from the exhibition will be displayed throughout the Center for Education.



PSD Visual Arts Celebration

THE CHORAL CELEBRATION

The Choral Celebration this year was a remarkable event. On March 17th, 2025, seventeen schools brought over 700 students from grades 1-9 to perform at a venue in west Edmonton. Hundreds of parents and community members attended in person, with many more participating via live stream. This event remains one of the largest and most inclusive extracurricular opportunities within Parkland School Division.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025-2026 AND BEYOND

As we reflect on a year filled with creativity, collaboration, and community, we are inspired by the impact fine arts education continues to have on our students. The 2024-2025 school year showcased the incredible talent and education of our young artists, musicians, and performers and affirmed the essential role of the arts in developing well-rounded learners.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building on this momentum, supporting innovative programming, expanding opportunities for student voice and choice, and strengthening connections between the arts and all areas of learning. With continued collaboration among schools, families, and community partners, we will ensure that the arts remain a vibrant and essential part of every student's education journey in Parkland School Division.

SGCHS Mural by Grade 12 student,
Faith Hunter

