

Indiana Academic Standards for Theatre

The IPFW Community Arts Academy Addresses these standards for grades K-12. For detail, see <http://ideanet.doe.state.in.us/standards/welcome2.html> or contact the IPFW Community Arts Academy (260-481-6959)

Introduction

Standards: What are they and why are they necessary?

Standards are statements that define what students should know and be able to do upon completion of specific levels of instruction. Standards serve as a gauge for excellence and are differentiated from minimum competencies or outcomes because they describe the challenging goals aspired to for expanding and improving fine arts education in the United States.

20-10.1-17-3, Section 3 in Indiana School Laws and Rules states, "The board shall adopt clear, concise, and jargon free state academic standards that are comparable to national and international academic standards." The Indiana Theatre Standards were recommended by the State Board of Education in February 2003.

Quality Theatre Education: A Description

Quality theatre education incorporates research, analysis, and creation in order to explore the integrative and evolving nature of theatre. The components of a quality theatre education feature these content areas and activities:

History and Culture: Students understand the significance of theatre and its relationship to history and cultures through inquiry into theatre history and dramatic literature. Students develop historical and cultural insight through recognizing significant works of theatre and various theatrical performance styles.

Analysis and Response: Students develop critical thinking skills necessary to analyze the form and style of plays and performances. They develop the ability to reflect on and interpret the nature of the theatre experience on a personal and global level.

Creative Process: Students create theatrical work through script development, research and collaboration. Through research, imagination, script analysis, observation, and improvisation, students develop proficiencies as designers, actors, directors and playwrights.

Careers and Community: Students identify a variety of theatrical careers. They develop a commitment to theatre that underscores the value of the theatre arts on a personal and societal level.

Integrated Studies: Students understand the integrative and evolving nature of theatre in an historical and contemporary context.

Standards at the National Level

The Indiana Academic Standards for Theatre align closely with the national standards. Both standards emphasize the creative process of theatre artists, production analysis, and the role of theatre in contemporary life. The Indiana Standards expand upon the national standards by including more in-depth inquiry into the areas of history, culture, and the structural analysis of plays and productions.

Those accustomed to teaching curriculum based on the national standards should find the Indiana Standards compatible with the national content and achievement standards.

Philosophy and Rationale for the Fine Arts

In our efforts to provide a quality education for every child in our state, it is important to provide for all aspects of human growth. This includes artistic, expressive, and cultural, as well as intellectual, emotional, physical and social development. The arts are essential in education for they provide students with the means to think, feel, and understand the world around them in ways unique and distinct from other disciplines. Literacy in the arts enhances a person's ability to participate in society by developing creative problem solving, inquiry, and communication skill, and by providing an avenue for self-expression and multiple points of view. For these reasons, a curriculum that enables students to become self-directed, lifelong learners in the arts should be available to all Indiana students.

Goals of the Fine Arts

The ultimate goal of a fine arts curriculum is to enable students to be proficient creators, performers, critics, listeners, and observers of the arts. Students who attain academic standards in the fine arts will be able to use the arts to think and learn independently, know themselves and the world around them, and communicate in the art forms studied. To ensure that students attain these standards and capabilities, they must be immersed in numerous opportunities to learn about, perform, create, and evaluate the fine arts.

In order to promote student literacy in the fine arts, the goals for students in grades K-12 are to:

- value the arts
- become confident in one's artistic abilities
- communicate in and through the arts
- develop one's artistic skills
- become creative problem solvers
- exhibit knowledge of the historical and cultural backdrop of the arts
- exhibit the ability to critique the arts
- exhibit the development of aesthetic awareness in the arts

ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR THEATRE

HISTORY AND CULTURE

Standard 1

Students understand the significance of theatre and its relationship to history and cultures.

Standard 2

Students recognize significant works of the theatre and comprehend various performance styles.

ANALYSIS AND RESPONSE

Standard 3

Students understand and analyze the dramatic structure of plays and performances.

Standard 4

Students identify, develop and apply criteria to make informed judgments about theatre.

Standard 5

Students reflect on and interpret the nature of the theatre experience and its personal and artistic significance.

CREATIVE PROCESS

Standard 6

Students create scripts and theatre pieces through collaboration, inquiry and improvisation.

Standard 7

Students utilize imagination and research to design and implement the elements of a visual environment.

Standard 8

Students develop acting skills through observation, improvisation and script analysis.

CAREERS AND COMMUNITY

Standard 9

Students recognize a variety of theatrical careers.

Standard 10

Students develop a lifelong commitment to theatre arts and value their importance in the life of the community.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

Standard 11

Students identify and make connections between theatre and other disciplines, such as language arts, social studies, humanities, science, and technology.

Standard 12

Students understand the integrative nature of theatre that includes dance, music, visual art, and media arts.