

HORIZON CHARTER SCHOOLS

Quality Education through Personalized Learning

INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT

October 20, 2011

By Patricia Winget, Chief Academic Officer

Progress Toward End Number 2.c: Visual and Performing Arts

As a result of our efforts, students will pursue their own special interests and talents while challenging and improving their abilities in the following areas:

- a. Effective use of technology
- b. Problem solving and critical thinking strategies
- c. **Visual and performing arts**

Reasonable Interpretation and Justification

Horizon Charter School and Partnerships for Student-Centered Learning effectively meet End 2.c as evidenced through the volume of classes offered, the number of students enrolled in those courses, and the products of their learning experiences.

Data Directly Addressing the Interpretation

The Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Standards (CDE, 2001) address the disciplines of:

- 1) Dance
- 2) Music
- 3) Theater
- 4) Visual Arts

For each arts discipline, the content standards are grouped under five visual and performing arts strands:

- artistic perception
- creative expression
- historical and cultural context
- aesthetic valuing
- connections, relations, and applications

At each grade level, pre-kindergarten through grade eight, content standards are specified for each strand. For students in grades nine through twelve, the proficient level of achievement can be attained at the end of one year of high school study within an arts discipline after the student has attained the level of achievement required of all students in grade eight. Many students also elect to take additional arts courses at the advanced level.

While schools and districts across our six-county area are eliminating VAPA classes and programs, Horizon Charter School (HCS) and Partnerships for Student-Centered Learning (PaSCL) continue to embrace the body of research that finds when the visual and performing arts are woven into a rigorous core academic curriculum, learning and

expression is magnified. The importance of these arts cannot be diminished. The *Visual and Performing Arts Standards* state:

Dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts have endured in all cultures throughout the ages as a universal basic language. The arts convey knowledge and meaning not learned through the study of other subjects. Study in and through the arts employs a form of thinking and a way of knowing based on human judgment, invention, and imagination. Arts education offers students the opportunity to envision, set goals, determine a method to reach a goal and try it out, identify alternatives, evaluate, revise, solve problems, imagine, work collaboratively, and apply self-discipline. As they study and create in the arts, students use the potential of the human mind to its full and unique capacity. The visual and performing arts are a vital part of a well-rounded educational program for all students.

All of our programs and home/independent study have opportunities for students to explore the visual and performing arts. Classes are offered to all students beginning in Kindergarten. Some examples of classes provided at HCS/PaSCL resource centers and through contract program vendors are the following:

- Rock Band
- Film Production
- Creativity Workshop
- Drama
- Swing Dance
- Watercolors
- Arte Elegante
- Ballet Studio
- Conservatory of Dance
- Foothill Dance & Performing Arts
- Kids Studio of Fine Arts
- Placerville Clayworks
- Sacramento Ballet
- Vivace Music
- Upstage Productions

The elementary HCS and PaSCL programs report that VAPA activities are infused throughout their education. For example, at the Lincoln Montessori Community Co-op, all classes have art approximately every three weeks, classes perform plays, and students take field trips to theater performances grades 3-8. The Accelerated Learning Academy has a variety of core knowledge enrichment activities as well as in-class activities such as debates, skits, living history posters, movies, puppet shows, and simulations.

A summary of the classes and instruction offered to our students in each of the VAPA areas appears on the following page.

VAPA Classes and Instruction Provided to HCS/PaSCL Students 2011-12

Location	Dance	Music	Theater	Visual Arts
Lincoln Area Classes	1	3	1	3
Placerville Area Classes	0	2	0	3
Roseville Area Classes	0	0	0	2
Rocklin Area Classes	0	3	0	4
Accelerated Learning Elementary		embedded	embedded	embedded
Accelerated Learning Academy				1
Rocklin Academy MSE	0	3	0	4
Lincoln Montessori	0	embedded	embedded	embedded
School of Kreativity, Innovation & Excellence (includes Auburn Area Classes)	3	6	2	16
REACH	0	1	0	1
Sacramento Academy for Enterprising Youth (includes Elk Grove Area Classes)	0	2	0	4
Sacramento Leadership Collaborative Program	0	0	2	0
RISE		embedded	embedded	3
Vendors (CP)	19	59	5	10
TOTAL	23	79	10	51

Summary of Findings

There are 163 classes available to students in Horizon Charter School and Partnerships for Student-Centered Learning in the visual and performing arts areas of dance, music, theater, and visual arts. It is evident, that HCS and PaSCL place a high value on offering to all of our students — wherever they live — opportunities to experience and learn about the visual and performing arts.