

SCHEDULING ART RESOURCE CLASSES AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION –

- Guidelines approved by the DCPS School Board

BASIC INFORMATION –

- Currently under the guidelines, elementary students (grades 1-5) are to receive 1 hour of art every other week and music for 30 minutes weekly (18 hours each for the entire year). Kindergarten classes under the original accepted guidelines stated 45 minutes of art every other week. DTU negotiations have altered that time allotment to that matching grades 1-5.
- Equating art and music resource classes is the same as comparing apples to oranges; they have different needs and issues
- Art classes require the need to develop the lesson through teacher/student interaction (Q&A), teacher demonstration/use of ancillary materials for students to understand the concept of the lesson, material disbursement, student hands-on engagement (at least 20 minutes), clean up, assessment/reflection time. Total time: 55-60 minutes.

SCHEDULING CONCEPTS –

- **A/B WEEKS** – follows the guidelines set forth by the DCPS School Board utilizing 1-hour blocks of time (for scheduling purposes/downloads into the computer system, this requires utilizing 2 30 minute blocks, one/week). Music is weekly for 30 minutes.
- **ROTATION** - 7, 9, 10, 12, etc. rotating days. All holidays and planning days, early dismissal days are taken into account so that no one loses a resource day. Schedules are still based on the approved time allotment. **THIS IS THE BEST SCHEDULE THAT IS FAIR TO ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.**
- **SPLIT YEAR/TRACK** – When trying to schedule all needs into the day becomes too difficult, students can be put on a track. ie: K-2 grade students have music from August through December while grades 3-5 have art; flip grades from January through May/June.
- **WEEKLY** – If a school chooses to have art on a weekly basis, the class (art) cannot be less than 45 minutes in length. This is due to the information shared in bullet 3 of Basic Information. By providing 45 minutes weekly, students may have the opportunity of having as much as 27 hours of art contact time. **BY NO MEANS CAN A QUALITY ART PROGRAM EXIST IN 30 MINUTE INCREMENTS.** Little knowledge is gained by the students and the work is weak.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS –

- If a resource teacher is on a cart, 10 minutes is needed in order for the teacher to have ample time to make it to the next class, especially when the class is at the farthest end of the campus.
- Specific to note: combined classes. If classes exceed 36 students, another adult needs to be in the room due to safety issues.
- The ability for students to have art and music provides students with a well-rounded education. In order for that education to be of the highest quality, consideration must be given to:
 - The ability for teachers to receive Professional Development that hones skills in their certificated area.
 - Funding for program/curriculum – textbooks, ancillary materials, technology/equipment, general storeroom funds equal to that given to all certificated teachers in the school.
 - One plan: administrators take \$15-\$25 off the top of every classroom teacher's general storeroom money in order to provide funding for resources.
 - Second plan: for every day of resource, the resource teacher is allocated \$100 for general supplies (art programs utilize LOTS of materials that are consumable).