



Arts Integration

What Is Arts Integration?

Arts integration is a way to teach students by connecting an art form (drama, music, visual arts and dance) with another subject (English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and/or science), in lessons that help them learn concepts and skills in both content areas.

Why Choose this Approach?

- Arts integration increases student engagement and motivation.
- Arts integration promotes active involvement in learning.
- Arts integration has been linked to academic achievement and increase in retention.
- Students have multiple opportunities to enhance critical thinking skills by making connections across arts and academic disciplines.
- Students learn from each other.
- Students are encouraged to take risks and explore possibilities.
- Students deepen their academic knowledge while at the same time developing their creative expression.
- Students construct and demonstrate their understanding in creative ways.

How Does Arts Integration at RA Work?

1. Grade level Classroom teachers and Arts Integration teachers (Dance, Drama, Music, & Visual Arts) work as partners to plan and co-teach NY State Standards based lessons that integrate an art form and another subject area (e.g., ELA, math, science, social studies).
2. Students may create a culminating product, such as a portfolio of work or a final performance, but the new skills, knowledge, and understanding gained in the process of creation are just as important as the product itself.
3. The lessons are co-taught in every classroom for 45 minutes every day in each of RA's three trimesters.
4. Grade levels are matched with one Arts Integration teacher per trimester.
5. Students are assessed in both the subject and the arts areas being co-taught.

THE ARTS AT RA - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The arts are important both as stand alone subjects and as content and processes woven across interdisciplinary teaching and learning.
- The RA Arts Integration Model integrates the arts across the curriculum.

- The arts are an effective avenue for engaging students in authentic, challenging learning.
- The arts, when well integrated into instruction, require learners to take responsibility for their choices and to reflect seriously upon their work.
- The arts provide a connecting thread across learning experiences.
- The arts are for all children, not just the “artistic” or the talented.