



# Arts Integration Night

## The da Vinci Academy, Academy School District 20

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The da Vinci Academy, an arts-integrated school within Academy School District 20, hosts a unique family engagement initiative known as Arts Integration Night. The goal of this event was to demonstrate how academic standards are meaningfully integrated with the arts. Families were invited to engage in hands-on lessons that reflected classroom instruction, enabling them to experience the intersection of visual and performing arts with core academic content. For example, during one event, second-grade students created “story gloves” as a tool for retelling narratives—a lesson that combines literacy standards with visual arts.



Planning and implementation of Arts Integration Night was a collaborative effort led by a committee of one teacher from each grade level and a representative from the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) team. The school’s drama teacher chaired the committee to provide guidance on incorporating performance arts into the event. Each committee member contributed by selecting a project and identifying the academic and art standards it aligned with.

The event was structured in an open-house format, allowing families to move through various classrooms and explore the creative work happening across grade levels. Each classroom featured an interactive lesson, co-presented by the teaching team, that exemplified how arts standards are embedded within academic instruction. This format encouraged cross-grade-level exploration, giving younger students a glimpse into future grade-level expectations. Families were enthusiastic and deeply engaged, often expressing surprise and admiration at the depth of their children’s understanding. The event had a noticeable impact on school climate by fostering pride, connection, and mutual appreciation between families and staff. It also strengthened teacher-family relationships through direct and meaningful conversations about student learning.

Evaluation of Arts Integration Night included collecting feedback from families and staff through informal surveys, as well as tracking attendance. With over 250 attendees, the event demonstrated strong community participation. The committee reviewed feedback and made refinements for future events. One challenge was ensuring that all materials and classroom spaces were prepared in advance, which required careful logistical planning.

For schools considering a similar event, advanced preparation and collaboration are key. Providing time for lesson development and material organization ensures a smooth experience for both staff and families. As one staff member noted, “It’s rewarding to watch families discover how their children learn—and to see students proudly teaching their parents.”