

PRESS RELEASE

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OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY 2021

The Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) is proud to recognize the **Palisades School District** for its outstanding commitment to visual arts education with the endorsement of *Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2021*. PAEA empowers its members to transform their practices, students, colleagues, and communities to build a strong art education culture and citizenry.

Districts receiving this endorsement demonstrate the importance of their visual arts programs with:

- *Rigorous and Inclusive Programs*: Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curriculum taught at every level by highly qualified and certified arts educators.
- *Highly Accessible Programs*: Art programs are offered to *all students* at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- *Highly Visible Programs*: Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

Students in the **Palisades School District** celebrate the importance of a well-rounded education with opportunities to engage in arts education courses at all grade levels, K-12. "The term 'well-rounded education' means courses, activities, and programming in subjects such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject, as determined by the State or local educational agency, with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience." (ESSA, Title VIII, Section 8002)

These opportunities prepare students with visual literacy. Visual literacy constitutes the new thinking and learning skills of a digital age and a creative economy. These are the types of cognitive skills young people will need to find their place in a globally competitive workforce. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector is a \$699 billion industry, which represents 4.3% of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than transportation and agriculture—according to a press release in early 2015. The nonprofit arts industry alone generates \$135 billion in economic activity annually (spending by organizations and their audiences) that supports 4.1 million jobs and generates \$22.3 billion in government revenue (Americans for the Arts, 2015). Technology innovations such as big data, data analytics, and visualization will simply increase the importance of visual and spatial learning skills.

The Pennsylvania Art Education Association commends the **Palisades School District** for your active role in providing arts education opportunities for your students and receiving the endorsement of *Outstanding Visual Arts Community 2021*. Congratulations!

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