

Adopted: 2015-06-02

Policy IHAF

Cultural Policy

Dance, drama, music and visual arts allow students to incorporate skills, knowledge, and values into their everyday lives. Research has shown that through the arts, students learn to think imaginatively, identify and solve problems, empathize with others, think critically, assess the quality of their surroundings, communicate effectively and appreciate the skills and accomplishments of others. The New Frontiers School Board is committed to providing students with learning experiences that engage their hearts, minds and bodies.

Principles

The New Frontiers School Board believes that the arts:

1. Connect learning experiences to the world of work. Students in the arts develop higher level life skills such as creativity, problem-solving and divergent thinking. Students learn teamwork as they face artistic challenges, negotiate for meaning, take judicious risks and create together;
2. Help students explore, think critically and represent ideas and concepts. As students gain knowledge of and experiment with elements of the arts they become creators and learn to appreciate artistic representations;
3. Teach self-discipline, and students become aware of the persistence and hard work that are required to create a meaningful work of art;
4. Celebrate the rich cultural heritage of our diverse communities and its role in our understanding and acceptance of each other;
5. Help students become more successful by developing skills that can be transferred to other subject areas of the curriculum, resulting in measurable gains in student motivation and achievement in reading, writing and mathematics;
6. Build student self-confidence;
7. Teach empathy and respect for a multitude of cultural traditions and values; and
8. Contribute to safe, healthy environments in schools and the community, and prepare students to shape a better world.

Scope

Art curriculum is based on the Québec Education Program as outlined by the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports. The New Frontiers School Board strives to ensure that its arts programs:

1. Use teaching methodologies that promote positive relationships amongst students, educators, parents and members of the community;
2. Are enhanced by professional development opportunities for staff;
3. Enrich the arts curriculum through interaction with artists in the classroom and in the community;
4. Are conducted in facilities that ensure the safety and emotional well-being of all participants;
5. Share student production with peers, students, educators, parents and members of the community; and
6. Honour and celebrate the richness and diversity of our multicultural community.

Roles & Responsibilities

The New Frontiers School Board has the responsibility to:

1. Have knowledgeable educators in place to provide a high quality level of cultural education;
2. Promote existing and/or new cultural programs;
3. Sensitize all students and personnel to the importance of culture in our lives; possibly the most important elements of culture that students need to be sensitized to are socio-economic status (there is an important culture of welfare and poverty among some of our students) and native culture.
4. Facilitate exchanges amongst students, personnel, community and cultural organizations in order to build partnerships;
5. Ensure that material and financial assistance is provided to schools to fund cultural programs; and
6. Ensure that students and personnel have the opportunities to take part in cultural events.

The School Board will form a Cultural Committee in order to carry out the above roles and responsibilities.

Schools have the responsibility to:

1. Include a cultural dimension in their Educational Project and School Success Plan;
2. Offer quality arts programs to all students through the selection of art educators knowledgeable in the art areas chosen by the school;
3. Recognize and promote the diversity of cultures in our society;
4. Value the artistic expression of students and personnel;
5. Promote the participation of students and personnel in activities that develop artistic and cultural qualities;
6. Integrate the cultural dimension in the teaching of subject specific competencies;
7. Make effective use of resource people in the community; and
8. Promote projects, activities and events of a cultural and artistic nature.

The school may form a Cultural Committee or use an existing structure in order to carry out the above roles and responsibilities.
