

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum and Instruction Practices for the Arts

"The arts can help students become tenacious, team-oriented problem solvers who are confident and able to think creatively. These qualities can be especially important in improving learning among students from economically disadvantaged circumstances."

--Arne Duncan, United States Secretary of Education--

October 20, 2009

Dear Arts Specialists and Arts Advocates:

The Arts Office is pleased to provide you with the 2009-2010 Boston Public Schools Arts Calendar of Events!

In collaboration with the Boston Arts Academy and Roland Hayes School of Music, the BPS Arts Office has created a master arts calendar, which includes major arts professional development, festivals, and events sponsored by the district office and both arts-focused schools. The calendar has been designed to be a useful planning tool for arts specialists, teachers, principals, headmasters, administrators, parents, students, community, cultural, and higher education partners.

On September 11, 2009, Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D., Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education stated, *"Compelling research done over the past two decades has indicated that arts-rich schools have students who perform better academically, have better attitudes about school, and have improved attendance. Other studies have shown that the arts play a primary role in the development of a well-rounded curriculum and also in the development of the whole child."* Your participation in quality arts programming will help promote equitable access to the arts for BPS students.

A printable version of the BPS Arts Calendar is available on the Arts Page of the Boston Public Schools website at: www.bostonpublicschools.org

For detailed BPS Arts event information and district-wide arts updates, please read the BPS Arts E-Newsletter or visit the Arts Office website at: www.bpsarts.org

Thank you for supporting excellent arts-focused and arts integrated education in Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Cleopatra Knight-Wilkins
Acting Senior Program Director for the Arts
Boston Public Schools