

# The Arts and Creativity

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Students at Prince Avenue Christian School have the opportunity to study the arts from Pre-K through 12th grade. Our elementary students have art and music classes each week. Our middle school students take art in each of their middle school years for one quarter. High school students may choose from a variety of fine arts classes. Why are the arts part of a well-rounded education? A closer look reveals why we should encourage our children to study the arts.

From a purely educational standpoint, the arts encourage students to work at the highest intellectual level. According to the revised Bloom's taxonomy, creativity is the top tier of the educational process. A student first gains knowledge and begins to understand a subject, concept or skill. The student takes that knowledge and applies it, and then analyzes and evaluates the application of the knowledge. When a student can evaluate and analyze the application of knowledge, they can then create or generate ideas. In the process of generating ideas, they bring something new into existence. For example, when a student is learning to play an instrument, they must first know a little about how that instrument will sound and what it looks like. Next, they must understand how you produce a sound on the instrument through correct breathing and placement of the fingers. The actual playing of the instrument occurs when the student takes that knowledge and understanding, and begins to play sounds and written music. The student then analyzes and evaluates their playing to determine how to improve. Finally, the student assimilates the technical skills, knowledge and analysis together to interpret the written music or to create new music.

When students experience the process and joy of creating, they apply higher-level thinking in other areas of life--especially problem-solving. Through their confidence in creating they find solutions to challenges, and set themselves apart as leaders. In recent years an IBM poll of 1500 CEOs identified creativity as the number one commodity in business. The desire for creative thinking employees was more important than education or experience. Businesses are looking for creative ideas that can lead to the innovation of new products, better processes, and ultimately more value for their company.

The next time you see artwork by our students displayed in the hallways, or hear the pep band playing, or watch a school musical, consider all the study, work, and practice involved in creating the artistic presentation.