

Leading with Arts Education

The newsletter for Vermont's Visual and Performing Arts Educators and supporters

January 2022

Updates and Opportunities

Looking Ahead

What's in this issue.

Arts Teacher Mentor Program

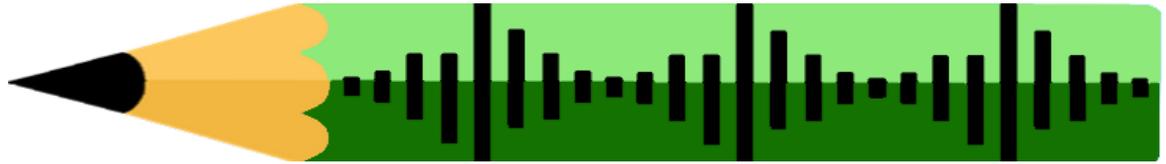
Description of and interest form for the Arts Teacher Mentor program.

Art and Music Performance Assessments

General updates on progress of designing and piloting sample art and music performance assessments.

Arts Education Networks

Information on the monthly Arts Education Networks.



Looking Ahead

This issue contains information on arts updates and upcoming opportunities with the Agency of Education (AOE). Included is an overview and interest form for the Arts Teacher Mentor program, general updates on piloting art and music performance assessments, and information on the monthly Arts Education Networks.

Arts Teacher Mentor Program

We are looking to set up a database of Arts Teacher Mentors. When needed, local agency mentor program leads from across the state can connect with the AOE Arts Specialist on the Arts Teacher Mentor program for support pairing a highly skilled mentor with their new arts teachers. Local school or district mentor program leads from across the state can connect with Arts Specialist on the Arts Teacher Mentor program for highly skilled mentors for their new arts teachers. New arts teacher can also volunteer to receive a mentor and participate in this program for one year.

Purpose and Aims

The purpose of the Arts Teacher Mentor program is to strengthen Vermont's arts education network while supporting new and veteran teachers' sense of agency and overall practice. Teachers who are identified as Arts Teacher Mentors will support new arts teachers with a range of instructional strategies, classroom management strategies, and more.

Aims for New Teachers

Offer a support system for developing skills in and understanding of classroom management, instructional practice, evaluation methods, and any other needs identified by the Arts Teacher Mentor and mentee.

Aims for Veteran Teachers

Participate in a meaningful leadership opportunity that helps guide Vermont's arts education network through professional learning, solutions to problems of practice, and change efforts.

Who Can Participate?

New Arts Teachers Who...

- Are new to the profession (i.e., with 0-3 years of experience) or new to a Vermont school. New teachers can volunteer to participate to work with an Arts Teacher Mentor. Local mentor/onboarding program leads can request to pair a new arts teacher with an Arts Teacher Mentor

Arts Teacher Mentor Program Cont'd

Veteran Teachers Who...

- Are a visual or performing arts teacher with more than three years of experience.
- Demonstrate strong skills in and understanding of best practices.
- Commit to professional growth.
- Display and has experience in leadership.
- Has experience working with adults in professional education settings.

Timeline

- **March:** 2022-2023 Arts Teacher Mentor list identified.
- **May:** Arts Teacher Mentors participate in virtual seminar.
- **September:** Mentors paired with teachers as needed.
- **October:** Mentors/mentees participate in one-hour kick-off session.
- **November - April:** Mentors/mentees meet for one-hour a month (virtually or in-person) one-on-one to discuss strategies and problems of practice.
- **May:** Mentors/mentees attend one-hour debrief session.

Interest Form for Veteran Teachers

The Arts Teacher Mentor list for the 2022-23 school year will be formulated in the spring of 2022. More information for new teacher participation will be sent closer to the start of the 2022-23 school year. If a veteran teacher is interested in supporting new teachers, [please complete this form](#). This must be submitted by **February 4th, 2022**. Please read the form closely for information and reach out to the Arts Specialist (kyle.anderson@vermont.gov) with any questions.

Arts Assessment Pilot

In the fall of 2021, two teams of Vermont art and music teachers started designing performance assessments to pilot and prepare for an Arts Assessment Program. The purpose of this program is to offer the state's arts educators exemplar assessments, strategies to align instruction and assessment approaches to the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS), opportunities to engage in a professional learning community that targets arts assessments, reliable evaluation tools and methods, and scoring calibration opportunities. This year, teams are designing a fifth-grade visual arts and fifth-grade music performance assessments. Both teams have identified a challenge statement or driving question for their assessments and NCAS indicators to evaluate. They are currently working on task-specific targets based on the indicators to prepare evaluation tools and protocol for the assessment. The teams' plans are to pilot the performance assessments in the spring of 2022. Anyone interested in hearing updates or additional details should plan to attend the Arts Education Networking Sessions in the spring of 2022. See below for details.

Arts Education Networking Sessions

The monthly Arts Education Networking Sessions are continuing through the rest of the school year. These are informal one-hour virtual sessions for visual and performing arts teachers to connect, hear updates, and discuss problems of practice. If you are interested in participating and receiving the monthly meeting link, please complete this form:

[Arts Education Networking Session Form](#)

The times and dates for the remainder of the year are as follows:

Visual Arts (first Tuesdays at 3pm):

Visual Arts Dates:

2/1/22

3/1/22

4/5/22

5/3/22

Performing Arts (first Thursdays at 3pm):

Performing Arts Dates:

2/3/22

3/3/22

4/7/22

5/4/22 – May's session will be Wednesday.

Those who complete the Arts Ed. Network Session form will receive monthly meeting links along with information on session topics. Please reach out to the Arts Specialist (kyle.anderson@vermont.gov) with any questions.

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