



Arlington  
Public  
Schools

Arts Education

# ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2017





# ARTS EDUCATION

The Arts Education Office operates within the Department of Instruction (DOI) to meet APS Strategic Plan goals and DOI core services. Arts Education is an essential part of the core curriculum from pre-kindergarten to grade 12, that provides opportunities to develop artistic literacy and supports the academic growth of all students. The mission of the arts education office is to recruit, hire, and retain highly effective teachers while leading a culture of continual learning toward the implementation of best practices and curriculum design, aligned to APS and state standards. This provides the opportunities for students to receive high levels of arts education as well as to develop the necessary problem solving and critical thinking skills that will transfer to all aspects of their lives.

During the 2015-16 school year, there were 7,252 enrollments among students in grades 6 through 12 in Instrumental Music, Choral Music, Visual Arts and Theater. The arts offer powerful tools for expression – tools for making connections, critical thinking, personal realization, communicating, for problem solving, and civic engagement. They are an essential part of human history and provide a foundation for students to succeed. All students will be equipped to problem solve and use the tools they learn in the arts to build and innovate our future worlds.

## **The major services provided by the Arts Education office are:**

- Development and implementation of high quality Arts programs.
- Providing outside opportunities for students to be involved in the Arts.
- Hiring and retaining highly effective teachers.
- Designing the curriculum and aligning instructional resources for implementation.
- Providing instructional support for schools.
- Designing sustained and continuous professional learning for teachers.

## **Bright Spots**

Each year the Arts Education office supports numerous opportunities for students to be challenged in the Arts, which is a testament to the highly effective teachers, professional learning, rigorous curriculum and instructional resources.

More than 25 APS students were accepted into the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' Association (VBODA) District XII All-District Bands. These students were selected by audition on January 14 and 21, 2017 and performed in the All-District Band Event February 2-4, 2017 at Kenmore Middle School.

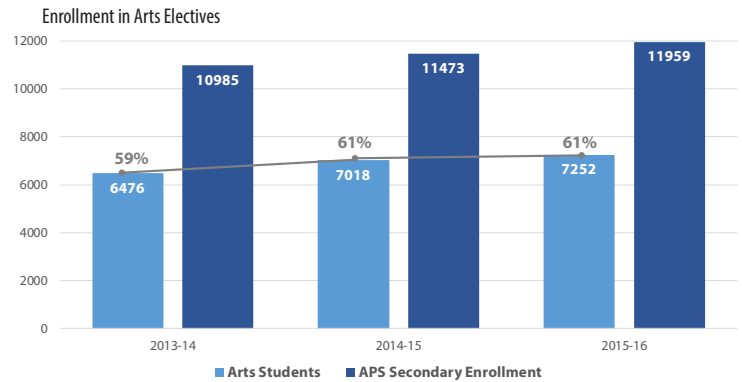
Three APS high school students were accepted into the All-Virginia Jazz Ensemble. The performance was given at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Hot Springs, Virginia on Saturday, November 19, 2016 with two nationally acclaimed guest conductors. This prestigious ensemble is available to approximately 40 students around the



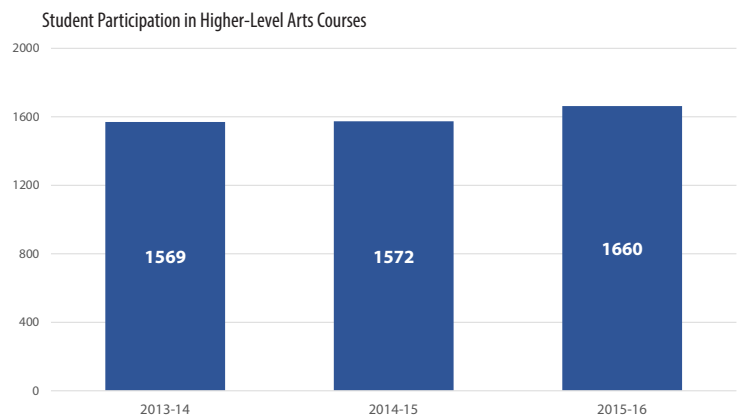
### Data that provides insight

The Arts Education office uses a variety of data sources including enrollment, staff surveys, student surveys, and district, regional, and state assessments in order to monitor the fidelity and impact of arts education.

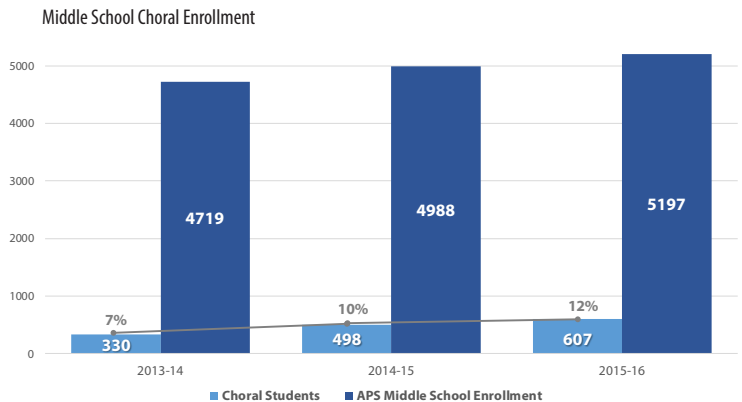
The chart below shows that 61% of our secondary students were enrolled in a fine arts course during the 2015-16 school year.



This graph represents the increase in number of students taking a higher-level arts elective.



This graph shows a 4% increase in students enrolled in choral music in grades 6-8.



state who are accepted into one of the two ensembles.

Six APS high school seniors were selected as members or alternates into the 2016 Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) Senior Honor Choir. The choir is open only to the top 125 singers from around Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career. Auditions were open to seniors enrolled in choral programs at their respective schools. The audition took place at Longwood College October 8, 2016. Students performed at the Virginia Music Educators Association's convention in Hot Springs, VA on November 19, 2016.

### District XII Honors Chorus and Honors Orchestra 2016-17

Over 100 APS students middle school and high school students were accepted into District XII Honors Chorus and 18 middle school and high school students were accepted into District XII Honors Orchestra. The District XII High School and Middle School Chorus auditions took place on November 5, 2016 at H-B Woodlawn. The Honors Treble Choirs and Honors Mixed Choirs I performed on February 11, 2016 at Herndon High School. District XII Junior and Senior Orchestra auditions took place on November 15, 2016 at McLean High School. Students that were accepted into the honors orchestra ensembles performed January 7, 2017 at Washington-Lee High School.

APS Honors Music Program: The Arts Education Department held auditions for four weeks starting the last week of October which ran through mid-November for six different music ensembles open to APS 4th-8th graders. Over 500 students came out to audition representing every elementary and middle school. The Honors Band and Honors Orchestra met for a 4-day period in January with a culminating concert on Saturday, January 28, 2017 and the elementary honors chorus, middle school honors chorus, junior band and junior orchestra will hold a final group concert on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

### Scholastic Arts Awards

The Regional Scholastic Art Award Exhibit is on display at Central Library through Wednesday, March 29 showcasing approximately 500 pieces of art from APS middle and high school students. The program, currently in its 94th year, is a national program recognizing outstanding creativity in teens grades 7-12. Approximately 900 pieces were awarded at the regional level from over 2,100 submissions. The national non-profit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards will honor students receiving a national award on Thursday, June 8, 2017 at a gala celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



# GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

## Arlington County Decal

Arlington County Treasurer's Office invited high school students who reside or attend school in Arlington to submit a design for the 13th Annual Vehicle Decal Design Competition. In December, a Citizens' Panel convened to narrow the record-breaking 235 submissions to just four finalists. Amy Kohan, a 10th grader at Wakefield High School, is the winner of the 2017-18 Vehicle Decal Design Competition for her design, "Arlington Sees Stars." Kohan's design, which features a photograph of the David M. Brown Planetarium, will appear on more than 160,000 vehicles in Arlington County.

## Grammy Music Educator Award

Yorktown High School director of Bands Brian Bersh was named a quarterfinalist for the Music Educator Award™ presented by The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY Foundation®. A total of 213 music teachers from 194 cities across 42 states have been announced as quarterfinalists. In total, more than 4,500 initial nominations were submitted from all 50 states. The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college at public and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools and is recognized for their remarkable impact on students' lives.

## Theater Awards

The Yorktown Theatre department's won 2nd place and Wakefield's Theatre department won 1st place at the VHSL One Act Play Conference Competition on January 21, 2017.

## KC Partnership CETA and COHORT

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Arlington Public Schools are members of the Kennedy Center's Partners in Education program. Selected because of their demonstrated commitment to the improvement of education in and through the arts, partnership teams participate in collaborative efforts to make the arts integral to education. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, Arlington Public Schools and the Kennedy Center have formed a cohort of 27 teachers to achieve the Kennedy Center CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) Certificate of Study. The certificate is an ongoing recognition program for teachers who participate in the Kennedy Center's professional learning.

## What we learned

Our increase in enrollment in choral music is significant. We learned that with sustained focus, alignment of goals, resources, and a systemic action plan we can increase opportunities and impact student achievement. Staff has also learned the effectiveness of the pyramid model when done consistently and with alignment to desired outcomes. Effective use of the pyramid model across the performing arts has increased enrollment and had an impact of student learning. Scan the QR code below to review the choral pyramid concerts.

At the elementary level we continue to focus on professional learning for teachers in areas of differentiation, technology, conversational solfege and the importance of Professional Learning Communities. We continue to look at opportunities to expand the A in STEAM and have worked collaboratively with the Virginia Tech Thinkabit Lab.

## Moving Forward

The Arts Education Office Evaluation will be presented in the Spring of 2018. Data collected over the course of the evaluation process will be analyzed and used to develop recommendations for additional course offerings in the arts, professional learning opportunities, needed resources, areas of improvement, and sustaining areas we have done well. We will continue to seek ways to improve and sustain our growth in the arts elective courses. Additionally, we have developed a concert rating form (rubric) to provide feedback to teachers throughout the year during these culminating events. The form creates multiple opportunities for discourse with teachers, share resources and ultimately high level performances.

No matter what art form is pursued, there are strong connections to the skills for 21st century learning. Each art form offers its own unique context where students can learn to acquire and process information and apply that learning in their own life.



## Maddie Meyer

Professional Photographer, Getty Images

Yorktown High School, Arlington Public Schools

Arts studies: Bachelor of Art, Photography, Ohio University

Maddie Meyer is no stranger to Fenway Park, Gillette Stadium, or TD Garden, but last summer, she was shooting the Olympics in Rio.

She's been to three Super Bowls — twice as an editor and another as a photographer. She shot the Kentucky Derby and the Western Conference finals. She landed on *Sports Illustrated's* "Leading Off" with one of her photos from the Women's World Cup. Oh, and she's only 24.

Though she's traveled across the Northeast, Maddie Meyer is one of Getty Images' staff photographers in the greater Boston/New England area. She didn't grow up a diehard Boston sports fan and plan her whole life to shoot Boston sports, though. A Virginia native, Meyer became enamored with photography as a child when she saw Doug Mills, a *New York Times* photographer, shoot photos of his daughter at youth soccer games and noticed his lens was nearly as big as she was. His stories of the Olympics and the White House piqued her interest, and she grew as a photojournalist the more she shadowed him.

