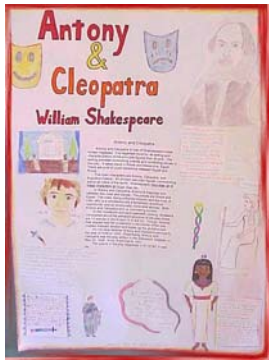


**ART IS EVERYWHERE
AT DA VINCI.**

Left: Poster demonstrating Shakespeare studies.
Right: Paintings incorporating negative space.
Lower: All students take dance at da Vinci and many perform
in our two annual dance recitals.



EXAMPLES OF WORK FROM VISUAL ARTS CLASSES



Art Sampler - painted landscape

Ceramics - African mask



Textiles - Woven scarves and felted purses

Digital Photography

"Arts education for our young people offers a tested, scientifically proven, path to greater creativity, discipline, focus and self confidence. Those in arts education are more likely to finish high school, more likely to pursue higher education and are less inclined to get in trouble in their community."

then-Commissioner Mike Lindberg
speech to the Portland City Club
February 16, 1996

*Portland Public Schools
Established Fall 1996*

DA VINCI ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

2508 NE Everett
Portland, Oregon 97232
503-916-5356
www.davinci.pps.k12.or.us

**DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY MUSIC,
ACT, PAINT & DANCE?**

If you are looking to be a part of an
arts-centered middle school, take a look at
da Vinci Arts Middle School!



DA VINCI ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL

VISION STATEMENT

Students at da Vinci will learn through the arts in a community
of students, teachers & parents working together.

Because we believe:

- The arts are essential to human development
- The arts empower people
- The arts enhance learning

Key components of our vision:

- A small, mixed-age learning environment
- Self-motivated, participating students & Involved families
- A collaborative, challenging, and stimulating curriculum
- An arts-oriented culture

Creative minds for challenging times.



DA VINCI ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROVIDING A RIGOROUS ARTS-CENTERED EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS FROM THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT.

CURRICULUM Students receive academic instruction in Reading, Writing and Social Studies, with a mixed-age

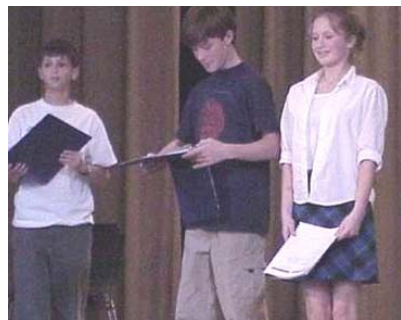


core group of about 30 students. Science & health curriculum are linked, also in mixed-age classes and math classes are grouped by readiness - we offer 6th grade general math through

high school level algebra. The arts are often used in the core curriculum classes as a way of engaging students and reinforcing learning. We have one full time teacher who delivers supplemental instruction to special education students.

ELECTIVE CLASSES Electives are a mix of year-long and trimester long classes. They include

THEATER (with classes geared for beginning through advanced level students.), **MUSIC** (choir, drumming, band & strings), **DANCE** (leveled classes that blend Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Modern & Ethnic styles), **ARTS WITH TECHNOLOGY** (Video Production, Digital Photography and Memory Book) and **VISUAL ARTS** (Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Photography, Textiles, Ceramics, etc.).



Students are given many opportunities, both formal and informal, to share their artistic talents.

Upper left: Rehearsing in Strings class;
Center: It's never a bad time to practice your form;
Lower left: First reading of a new play.

TECHNOLOGY We have computers in every class room (a mix of PCs & MACs) and each class is connected to the internet. Students have access to digital and video cameras to create multimedia works for projects in core classes and electives.



STRUCTURE OF THE DAY Our day is divided into 7 periods, 46 minutes each. Three periods are spent in the core class, one in math class, another in science class and two periods a day are spent in arts elective classes. Our day runs from 8:15 - 2:45. Students have 40 minutes for lunch / recess. Da Vinci does NOT have an after school care program. Though there are after school activities from time to time.

STAFFING We are staffed, teacher to pupil, at the same ratio as other PPS middle schools. We have a principal, a secretary, a counselor and community liaison. We have a full time resource center teacher who works with special education students. We do not have a student management specialist, a vice principal, or a librarian.

STUDENT BODY We serve about 350 students, (approximately 117 at each grade level). This year our student body mix is approximately 37% boys & 63% girls, with 19% minority students including African-Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans and Asian-Pacific Islanders.



Each student is a unique individual.

Da Vinci cultivates a responsible, cooperative learning community of students and adults encouraging each member to feel comfortable sharing their creative best. Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner towards themselves, their peers and adults.



Hands-on learning is an important aspect in every class. Direct observation and cooperative experiments inform lab reports all students create.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Da Vinci depends on an active parent community to function at its best. Parents organize and maintain all aspects of the school library, help in classrooms, tutor students, sponsor family evenings, lend critical support to student performances, serve on the site council, organize after school and lunch time clubs, classes & teams, take charge of fund raising and many other invaluable tasks.



Our library is smaller than most middle schools, and ably run by parent volunteers.

EVALUATION / TESTING Da Vinci is on a trimester system which means we send out report cards 3 x per year. We use a 1 -6 grading scale aligned with the state standards. Students receive both an academic and an effort grade. In addition, teachers are committed to keeping in contact with parents concerning student achievement. Like all students in PPS schools our students participate in PALT & state benchmark testing. We have even begun piloting Arts Benchmark evaluations.

TRANSPORTATION There is no PPS bus service to da Vinci. All families must provide their own transportation to and from school each day. The school address is 2508 NE Everett, within three blocks of Tri-Met lines #12, 19 & 20. Parents often put together carpools to ease the transportation burden.

FACILITY We are housed in the former Monroe H.S. building located on NE Everett Street between 24th and 28th Avenue. We have an auditorium, a ceramics studio, dark room, dance studio, and a student designed Water Garden in addition to a small library and traditional classrooms. Our building has an elevator and is wheelchair accessible.

We share the building with the Indian Ed Montessori Pre-School and some district administrators.

