



CONNECTIONS

BERLIN'S FINE ARTS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023



The Berlin Public Schools Fine Arts Department is committed to fostering a community of creative, innovative, and passionate learners who value and celebrate diversity in a global society through shared experiences in the arts. All learners will be provided with meaningful opportunities in the arts to further develop a deeper form of self-expression, empowering them to become lifelong participants, appreciators, and advocates of the fine arts.

Supervisor's Note



Welcome to the second edition of CONNECTIONS, the quarterly newsletter for the Berlin Public School's K-12 Fine Arts Department. Since our last edition, our music students across the district presented their winter concerts, our visual art students are preparing work for the upcoming district art show, and our theatre students presented a wonderful fall play and are currently preparing for our annual spring musicals. All in all, it's been a wonderful winter season of music and art making in our community!

One of our main goals in the Fine Arts Department is to foster an appreciation of the arts for a lifetime of enjoyment and participation. In all of our arts classes, students use key literacy skills such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking using arts-specific materials and resources so they can participate authentically in the arts in order to foster this appreciation; we refer to this as artistic literacy.

Artistic literacy allows students to think like an artist by exploring an artists's process, understand artistic concepts, and learn new skills within any given art form. Artistic literacy also serves as a means to reinforce the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills that are being practiced in other classrooms. In fact, several studies have shown that artistic literacy, and the effects of an arts education, has an immensely positive impact on student achievement.

In the Public School Review article, "How the Arts Benefit Your Children Academically and Behaviorally," Grace Chen states "students who study music have increased achievement and proficiency in math. Reading and cognitive development were found to increase, as were verbal SAT scores...the visual arts have a positive impact on students' ability to organize their writing. Sophisticated reading skills are promoted as well, including the ability to interpret complex texts, such as those found in science courses. Students that take a combination of arts programs demonstrate improved verbal, reading, and math skills, and also show a greater capacity for higher-ordered thinking skills such as analyzing and problem-solving" (Chen, 2023). Regardless of the discipline, the connections between the fine arts and academic achievement and social development are clear. Here in Berlin, we are fortunate to have so many students participating in our arts programs and such highly skilled faculty who are opening minds to the many ways the arts can play a role in our daily lives.

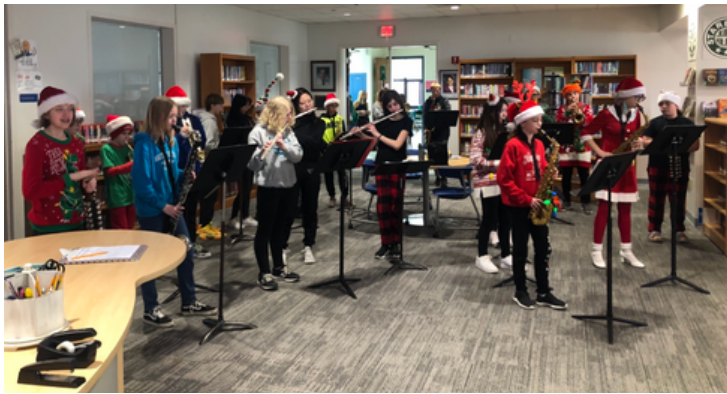
As the face of education is constantly changing, I encourage students and families to keep the arts in their day-to-day lives by being active participants: see a performance, attend a gallery or museum, or sign-up to take a music, theatre, or art class with your school or local organization. Together, we can ensure that Berlin continues to be a place for academic excellence and artistic appreciation. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Fine Arts events!

Best,

Mr. Tyler A. Boyle

Classroom News

Artists in Ms. Ripley's classes started off trimester 2 by working in groups to create their part of a winter village for the music concert backdrop. Students were able to turn their ideas into big architectural drawings because of their ability to work as a team. Each group made a building that became a part of one collaborative scene— a little village thought up by roughly one hundred 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students!



McGee chorus & band students performed around the halls the day before holiday break. It was a great way to show off the talents of our students and spread some holiday cheer!



Classroom News



Griswold students participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service by creating collaborative posters representing important themes of Dr. King's message.



Hubbard 5th Graders participated in an African Drumming workshop led by Dennis Cotton, local expert in the field and owner of Power of the Drum. They learned about traditional African drumming, participated in drum circles, and incorporated their new skills into their Winter Concert in December.



Olivia Balko and Carolina Foster participated in New Britain's annual Tuba Christmas Concert!

Classroom News



Grade 2 artists are participating in the second annual Crayola Creativity week. Students are participating in a school wide spirit week and daily art challenges presented by two celebrity creators. Each daily challenge is different and includes interviews with a variety of people including astronauts, illustrators, actors, comedians and dancers.



Elementary art students are learning about the concept of space this trimester. Younger grades are working on simple landscapes/cityscapes, learning about the horizon line, foreground, middleground, background and proportion, while older grades are learning about space, balance and proportion.



The BHS Unified Theater Class & Club presented their 2023 Unified Theater production titled "A Night at the Movies!" on Jan. 26th. Students worked together to write, rehearse, direct, and perform the entire show. Unified Theater brings students of all abilities together to create, explore, and perform!

Student Accolades

Congratulations to the following students
on their excellence in the Fine Arts...

Connecticut Music Educators Assoc. (CMEA) Elementary School Honors Festival

Griswold School

Anna Burgess, chorus
Andi Grant, chorus
Peyton Handley, chorus
Isabella Palmeri, chorus
Tregan Zampino, band

Hubbard School

Charlotte Brasile, band
Isabella Carling, chorus
Bryce Carlson, chorus
Leo Morisse-Corsetti, chorus
Meryl Sassu-Martin, chorus

Willard School

Alena Helming, chorus
Maya Olewicz, chorus
Vanessa Sirois, chorus
Aubrielle Uliasz, chorus
Avery Vernacatola, band

Connecticut Music Educators Assoc. (CMEA) Middle School Honors Festival

Ella Beatty, band
Monika Burbula, band
Tristan Fiertek, band
Sydelle Holland, band
Tobi Junker, band
Michelle Liu, band

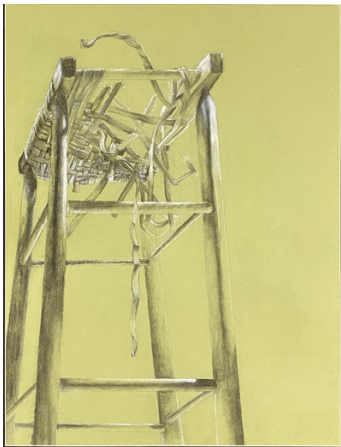
Connecticut Music Educators Assoc. (CMEA) High School Honors Festival

Nathan DeJackome, band
Meredith Gendreau, chorus
Addison Guarino, chorus
Cassidy Kemp, band
Cameron Malcarne, chorus
Elyse Niemiec, chorus
Adriano Rasmussen, band
Kylee Roberts, chorus
Sara Rogan, orchestra
Cole Webster, band

Student Accolades

Berlin High School had three students with four artworks recognized in the Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards from Gold Key through Honorable Mention. This is a high-level, professionally juried event which recognizes only the best student artwork from schools across Connecticut.

**Congratulations to the following students
on their excellence in the Fine Arts...**



Olivia Parciak, Grade 10
"Collapsing Stool"
Drawing & Illustration
Gold Key



Adam Rice, Grade 11
"The Light in the Darkness"
Digital Art
Gold Key

Madelyn Lazzara, Grade 11
"Hidden in Plain Sight"
Photography
Silver Key



Madelyn Lazzara, Grade 11
"Natural Beauty"
Photography
Honorable Mention



To celebrate the students, there will be a gallery show at Hartford Art School's Silpe Gallery on the University of Hartford campus that runs January 17 through February 3. An award ceremony with guest speakers will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023 starting at 2:00 pm at the Lincoln Theater on the University of Hartford Campus.

Upcoming Events

Disney's "The Little Mermaid"

March 2nd-5th

Berlin High School

SingingRedcoats.BerlinSchools.org

"Willy Wonka Jr.!"

April 1st @ 2PM & 7PM

McGee Middle School

BHS Spring Band Concert

Wednesday, April 19th @ 7PM

Berlin High School Auditorium

Berlin Public Schools's Annual District Art Show

Opening Reception

Wednesday, April 26th @ 5:30PM

New Britain Museum of American Art

Art show runs 4/26-4/30 at NBMAA

Attention all Grade 8-11 Students & Families:

Course registration for Berlin High School

starts on Monday, February 13th!

**Be sure to check out the 23-24 Program of Studies
for a full list of Music, Theatre, and Art classes to
satisfy your Fine Arts Graduation Requirement!**

Berlin Public Schools

K-12 Fine Arts Department

Tyler Boyle, Supervisor

tboyle@berlinschools.org | 860-828-6577 x2155