



PORT TOWNSEND
School District
LEARNING THROUGH A SENSE OF PLACE

Superintendent
Dr. John A. Polm, Jr.

Board of Directors
Jennifer James-Wilson
Laura Tucker
Nathanael O'Hara
Keith White
Connie Welch

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 10/3/2017

TO: John Polm

FROM: Daniel Ferland

SUBJECT: Fine Arts Update for PTSD

Teacher Reports

D. Ferland – PTHS Orchestra is planning on a trip in March of this year to Los Angeles. The orchestra will be doing a workshop for learning how to record music for feature films at Disney Studios. The orchestra will also have public performances.

W. Lecerc – Grant Street Art is planning on a clay project with community artist Lynn Anju as well as a field trip to the Bainbridge Island Art Museum. Grant Street will also be holding its annual Gallery Night again this year.

J. Nielsen – The after school drama program is producing “The Accidental Death of an Anarchist” by Dario Fo, a satire of police corruption. The HS is excited to add a 7th period drama class this year for those who don't have time to meet during the school day and is hoping that it can continue to increase in meeting frequency next year.

K. Clarke – Blue Heron 4th and 5th graders will be working to expand the collaboration with Songwriting Works this year. This MDS project teaches music composition skills to students and includes other subject work.

D. Ashton – Our new Grant Street music teacher is going to be working towards two separate end-of-year concerts for our students. A K-1 concert and a 2-3 concert on separate evenings.

L. Chambers – Blue Heron 8th graders are studying Art History including cave paintings. They will be creating their own “cave paintings” and inviting 4th graders to go spelunking in the caves when finished. Sixth graders are working on principals of design curriculum with projects using wire and bead mobiles, a tight rope walker as well as symmetry drawings.

M. Soderstrom – Our new HS art teacher is currently planning on repainting the east exterior wall of the art portable. Students are learning how to enlarge images using a grid system and cut stencils for the wall mural. Teamwork and project management is a large part of this undertaking.



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Fine Arts Coordinator

Daniel Ferland is working this year as PTSD Fine Arts coordinator. This is a new position funded by Music Boosters. In this role, Daniel is working make connections with community organizations that have a vested in our school fine arts programs. Daniel is exploring ways to work with these community partners and find common visions and opportunities and collaboration. We hope that some of these opportunities can lead to MDS projects for our students.

Some of the organizations I have met so far include the Northwind Arts Center, Centrum, Port Townsend Community Orchestra, and Songwriting Works. Good connections have been made to all organizations with plans to meet with more during the course of this year.

Course Offerings and Participation

Currently fine arts offerings at Grant Street include Art and Music classes for all students. At Blue Heron, all 6-8 students receive art instruction while all 4-6 students receive music classes.

In our performing arts classes 7-8, we have 42 students enrolled in orchestra and 26 enrolled in band. At the high school level, we currently have 51 students enrolled in orchestra and 29 in the band.