

MID-COAST REGIONAL ARTS PROGRAM

*Serving: RSU 1 and Brunswick
High Schools and Middle Schools
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The Program

History:

In 1983, high schools in the capitol area created a regional program for gifted and talented arts students to come together to work in their areas of interest with professional artists. In June of 1999, five mid-coast high schools: Bath, Baxter School for the Deaf, Brunswick, Freeport, and Sad 75 formed a regional gifted & talented arts program using the capitol-area model. As of fall 2005, the schools in the program are: Bath and Brunswick.

Student Selection:

Each school has a process for selecting students to participate in the program. The process generally includes teacher and/or GT coordinator referral, completion of an application form, submission of work for committee review (when appropriate), and an interview session with the appropriate school educators. Coordinators then meet to create the group of students for each course.

Art Courses Offered

Courses of study include creative writing, visual art, music (instrumental and vocal), theater, and dance. Each sending school selects students to participate in each regional G/T course offered. There are usually 12-15 students per course. With two participating schools, three (or four) courses are selected for each of the bi-annual sessions.

The high school fall courses are held on five Thursdays from 9:00 - 1:00 in October and November. The high school spring courses are held on five Thursdays in March and April. One Thursday is saved as a snow date. Middle School workshops are held on seven Thursdays in January and February. A final presentation, Evening in the Arts, takes place on the Thursday following the last class.

These courses are approved by each sending school and students are counted as present on the days they are taking classes. In order to make up tests, quizzes, and other work, students make arrangements with the teacher or each course they miss while participating in the program.

Workshop Locations

This program does not have an official home although, as a central location, Brunswick will provide the sites for most of the workshops. Students are bused from each school district to specific class locations. It is the director's responsibility to find the appropriate location in the Brunswick area for each course.

Finances

A full membership in the program is \$55,000.00. Instructors are paid \$150.00 for each session including "Evening in the Arts". Materials and transportation costs at .40 a mile are also covered. The Creative Writing instructor is paid an additional \$150.00 for work in creating the course publication. Approximately \$5000 a day is paid to each course location. The Brunswick School System is the fiscal agent for the high school program. RSUI administers the middle-school program.

Performance Assessment

An "Evening in the Arts" is held at one of the member high schools following each of the workshop series. Each group chooses an appropriate way to present their work in 20 - 30 minute segments. This is a process oriented program and so a polished final performance is not a goal. Refreshments are served to students and families following the presentation so that parents may meet the instructors.

Student Evaluations

Students receive a written evaluation at the end of the session. Students receive one copy and one copy goes into their permanent record file.