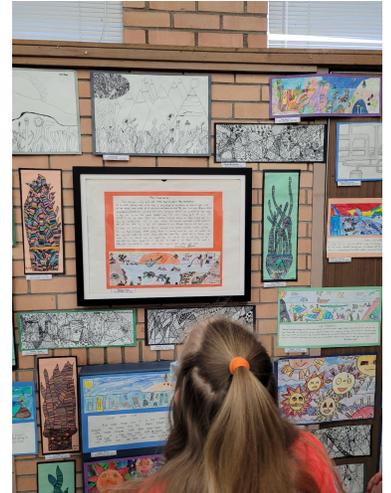




CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT

Topeka Collegiate
Limitless. Learning. Potential.

25 February 2022: The Arts!



“Education isn’t just about feeding the brain. Art and music feed the heart and soul.” -Julie Garwood

This is such a strong statement and something that we often forget. The specific music and art classes at Topeka Collegiate follow a teacher-designed curriculum, which is a thorough and comprehensive approach to arts education.

The fine arts are defined by seven disciplines: painting, sculpture, architecture, poetry, music, literature, and dance. Music and art classes are available and required for all students at Topeka Collegiate. Poetry and literature activities are a staple of all grade-level classrooms, as demonstrated by the annual Poetry Tea for first graders and the Poetry Reading Night with the eighth-graders, both held near the end of the school year.

On Thursday, February 24 the Lower School students shared music and art, hosting the annual Fine Arts Showcase. All of the prekindergarten students through fifth graders had their artwork hanging in Assembly Hall. The children and their families walked around, focusing on mostly their own art, but enjoying the work of all students. Each student in the Lower School self-selected four pieces of their own work to be on display, out of the multiple assignments and projects on which they worked so far this year. Each art lesson focuses on one of the main elements of art: Color, Shape, Texture, Value, Line, and Space. These were all represented in the art show. Art is under the guidance of Mrs. Blake Zachritz.

Following the art show, the students in grades 2-5 gave an “Informance” of the work they have been doing in their music classes this year. Mrs. Kay Siebert, the music director, explained that the event was not really a strict performance, but sharing the information and music knowledge students have gained over the last six months. She designed her work around the theme “We Are Here; Moving

Forward!” The students in grade five served as the hosts for the music portion of the evening, holding the speaking parts to share knowledge of the music curriculum in our entire Lower School.



The second grade showed off their rhythm work with a Body Percussion demonstration. Their study and understanding of many different rhythm patterns were on full display. Recorders are a “big deal” in the third grade, and they have made great progress in the short time they have had them for learning and rehearsal. They also spend time with the big bar instruments in music class, so it was important to share that skill as well. The Bass Clef is an area of concentration for fourth graders. They learn the lines and spaces on the staff, and how those correspond to the Treble.



At the end of the year, they will also compete in a Music Olympics amongst themselves. In addition to their hosting responsibilities, the fifth-grade students performed on the bucket drums. This is always a favorite whenever and wherever it is possible to do drum work.

The finale of the evening was the Music Memory Game for the fourth and fifth-grade students. Throughout the year, and every year through eighth grade, students learn about composers and pieces of each, participating in Music Memory activities and quizzes. It is always amazing to watch students recognize the wide variety of music genres and kinds of music literature studied each year.

Would you like to suggest a curriculum highlight?

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