



**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

ANNUAL ARTS IN SCHOOLS REPORT 2007-2008

This Annual Arts in Schools Report provides data for:

School: 18 K285

2007-2008 Principal: Eddie Gentile

Arts Education Liaison: Denise Holder

INSIDE THIS REPORT

The Annual Arts in Schools Report is a tool for school leaders to understand their delivery of arts education to every child in their school. Each Annual Arts in Schools Report measures two areas:

Student Access to and Participation in Arts Education

Uses surveys and information from DOE databases to understand if students are meeting the New York State Instructional Requirements for the Arts as well as the activities, resources and facilities used to support arts learning in each school. In addition, this section reports on questions asked in the Learning Environment Surveys about arts education.

Resources to Support Arts Education

Uses information from DOE databases and surveys to understand the resources that schools are allocating for arts education. This section includes information on certified arts teachers, arts and cultural organization services, space for arts learning, arts fundraising and professional development opportunities for teachers.

Dear School Community,

This report provides a view of the arts education opportunities you are providing for your students based on your responses to the Annual Arts Education Survey in June 2008 and includes information from the New York City Department of Education's databases.

The Annual Arts in Schools Report is an important part of the New York City Department of Education's effort to ensure that schools are providing students with the high-quality arts education they need and deserve. The report has been created to help school leaders, parents, and teachers understand how they can improve student learning in the arts, building on the Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts which provides detailed PreK-12 curricula aligned with State standards: <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/blueprint.html>

Joel I. Klein

Chancellor, New York City Department of Education

New York State Requirements for Arts Education

At the elementary level, in grades 1-6, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires that students receive instruction in dance, music, theater and visual arts in every grade. In addition, NYSED recommends that students spend a specific allocation of hours learning in the arts.ⁱ

At the middle school level, in grades 7 and 8, the NYSED expects that students achieve, by the end of grade 8, one half-unit of study in visual arts and one half-unit of study in music. NYSED has allowed New York City schools to offer any two of the art forms to meet the requirements.

At the high school level, the New York State Education Department requires that all students graduate having taken one unit or two credits in the arts (dance, music, theater and/or visual arts). High schools have the option of offering a three or five year sequence in any one of the four art forms. Students who complete five units in a single art form and successfully complete the exit exam in that art form are eligible to receive a Regents diploma with advanced designation in the arts.

School Progress in Meeting New York State Education Requirements

This table reflects arts instruction provided by school-based arts teachers and /or staff from arts and cultural organizations. This table does not reflect arts instruction provided by classroom teachers.

Grade	DANCE		MUSIC		THEATER		VISUAL ARTS	
	Dance Teacher(s)	Arts and Cultural Organizations	Music Teacher(s)	Arts and Cultural Organizations	Theater Teacher(s)	Arts and Cultural Organizations	Visual Arts Teacher(s)	Arts and Cultural Organizations
K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	√	-	√	-	√	-	√	-

Note: Check mark (√) indicates "yes"

Note: The dash (-) signifies either N/A or data not provided

Note: Students at District 75 schools may be ungraded and this chart may not apply

The table below shows the percent of students participating in arts classes by grade and by arts discipline in 2007-2008:

GRADE	DANCE	MUSIC	THEATER	VISUAL ARTS
7	5%	40%	3%	8%
8	3%	34%	3%	34%

Percent of 8th grade students graduated from this school in June 2008 who have taken at least one half-unit (one semester) in one arts discipline and a second half-unit in a different arts discipline over the course of 7th and 8th grade: 60%

Indicators of Student Access to Arts Education

In 2007-2008, students in this school participated in the following arts learning opportunities:

ARTS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY	STUDENTS PARTICIPATE
Performed and/or participated in concert(s)	Yes
Performed and/or participated in dance performance(s)	Yes
Performed and/or participated in theater/drama performance(s)	Yes
Contributed artwork to exhibition(s)	Yes
Showing student made films	No
Attended concert(s) by or at cultural organizations	Yes
Attended dance performance(s) by or at cultural organizations	Yes
Attended theater/drama performance(s) by or at cultural organizations	Yes
Attended exhibit(s) by or at museums or galleries	Yes
Film/media viewing	No

In 2007-2008, students in this school were offered the following arts sequences:

DISCIPLINE	SCHOOL OFFERS
Dance	Yes
Music	Yes
Theater	Yes
Visual arts	Yes
Film/Media	No
Other (if applicable)	Yes

Screened Arts Programs

In 2007-2008, this school screened students before they were admitted to the school and screened students into specialized programs after they were admitted to the school.

ADMISSION STATUS	SCREENED
Before admission	No
After admission	Yes

Learning Environment Survey

Percent of middle and high school **STUDENTS** at this school who reported on the 2007-2008 Learning Environment Survey that they participated in the following types of arts courses by arts discipline:

Arts Discipline	TOOK ONE OR MORE CLASSES DURING SCHOOL DAY		WERE OFFERED, BUT DID NOT TAKE CLASS DURING SCHOOL DAY		WAS NOT OFFERED THE CLASS	
	This School	All Schools	This School	All Schools	This School	All Schools
Dance	10%	20%	24%	19%	65%	61%
Music	34%	36%	19%	15%	47%	49%
Theater	8%	15%	25%	17%	67%	68%
Visual Arts	12%	51%	23%	13%	65%	37%

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION

Certified Arts Teachers

In 2007-2008, this school had the following number of full-time certified arts teachers:

ARTS DISCIPLINE	NUMBER OF FULL-TIME CERTIFIED TEACHERS
Dance	0
Music	1
Theater	0
Visual Arts	1

Arts and Cultural Organizations

In 2007-2008, this school had partnerships with and/or purchased services from the following arts and cultural organizations:

CULTURAL ORGANIZATION	DISCIPLINE	TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	TOTAL CONTACT HOURS PER STUDENT
NONE REPORTED			

Professional Development

Arts and non-arts teachers at this school attended the following professional development opportunities during the 2007-2008 school year:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDER	TEACHERS PARTICIPATE
Central NYC Department of Education	
School Support Organization (SSO)	
University/College	
Arts and Cultural Organization	Arts
School-based	
Other	

Space

In 2007-2008, this school had the following appropriately equipped classrooms:

ARTS DISCIPLINE	NUMBER OF APPROPRIATELY EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS	NUMBER OF DEDICATED CLASSROOMS
Dance	1	1
Core Music	2	2
Vocal Music	1	1
Instrumental Music	2	2
Film Studio	0	0
Auditorium	1	1
Theater	1	1
Blackbox Theater	0	0
Visual Arts Studio	1	1
Design Technology	1	1
Ceramics	0	0
Photography Studio	0	0
Other	1	1

Arts Fundraising

In 2007-2008, this school raised funds from outside sources to support arts education, including:

SOURCE	FUNDS RAISED
Private Foundations	No
Local Business or Corporations	No
Parent Teacher Associations (PTA/PA)	Yes
Federal Grants	No
State Grants	Yes
City Council	Yes
Education Associations	No
In-Kind contributions from business partners	No
In-kind contributions from cultural organizations	Yes
State, County, or Local, Arts Councils or Agencies	No
Total amount of funds received from outside sources to support arts education (\$)	2500

This school has submitted the following information about its arts program:

Located at Meyer Levin Intermediate School 285 in the East Flatbush section of Brooklyn, and celebrating its 29th anniversary, The Meyer Levin Performing Arts Center is an in-school and after-school arts program, staffed by certified professionals, that offers Meyer Levin students the opportunity to study disciplines of the arts that include Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music, Steel Plan, Costume Design, Vocal Music, and Art. For the past 29 years, The Meyer Levin Performing Arts Center has provided the best, most comprehensive arts program in New York City. Performance schedules include Winter Concerts, Spring Concerts, and a major production involving a collaboration of the arts. In addition to the in-school performances, groups have performed for the Mayor at City Hall and Gracie Mansion, for the Borough President at Brooklyn Borough Hall, Senior Citizen groups, and various Manhattan locations for the holidays like Lehman Brothers, the Woolworth Building, and the Daily News. Performing groups have also an extensive performance schedule throughout Region 6. Students are taken to several Broadway shows each year as well as experiencing visiting artists. The Performing Arts Center has recently collaborated with the Dance Music Hall of Fame, which has brought career seminars with industry professionals and performances into our building. Major productions have included "Barnum" (with students training for 6 weeks at the Big Apple Circus), "Hello, Dolly!", "My One and Only", "The Wiz", "Guys and Dolls", "Good News!", "Once On This Island", "My Fair Lady", "42nd Street", and "The Tap Dance Kid". Graduates of The Meyer Levin Performing Arts Center include celebrities like Reno Wilson (The Cosby Show, Blind Justice), Troy Liddell (Broadway production of "Guys and Dolls", "Soul Food", "The Anti-gravity Dance Company", Kenneth Richardson (Pianist touring with Stevie Wonder), Clive Lendore (trumpet – Broadway pits), and Leroy Tyndale (Production manager for Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Corporation). Classes are designed for 6th grade beginners and follow students into the 8th grade. Fields of study include:

- Art – Students study lettering, masks, perspective drawing, and help create the sketches used for our show scenery. In addition, students learn how to create portfolios for high school auditions.
- Dance – Students learn modern, jazz, and tap combinations in our newly renovated dance studio.
- Drama – Students study pantomime, improvisation, and scene study. Classes present scenes and poetry readings for our Black History Celebration.
- Costume Design – 6th grade students begin learning simple sewing techniques and advance into machine operations. The advanced sewing class makes costumes and props for our productions.
- Instrumental Music – Students begin with a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument and continue instruction on that instrument through to the 8th grade. Students learn to improvise as well as read from music charts. Our

band class has been invited to play throughout New York City. • Steel Pan – Students learn how to play this cultural instrument from beginning through to the 8th grade. The Steel Pan Band has traveled throughout New York City playing for the Mayor and Region 6 schools. The Meyer Levin Steel Pan Band continues to delight audiences all over. •

Vocal Music – The Meyer Levin Chorus is a continual A+ winner in the New York State Music Association competitions. The groups are divided in the 6th grade Chorus, the 7th and 8th grade Senior Boys Chorus, Girls Chorus, and Mixed Chorus. Sight reading is stressed on all levels. In addition to our classes, our after-school component also includes training in Stage Crew and Play Production. Our spring presentation in May 2007 will be the Broadway musical “The Wiz”. The after-school component is open to all students. All Javits and ASTRAL students automatically receive the area of his or her choice upon entering Meyer Levin Intermediate School 285. All other students are auditioned upon recommendations from our feeder elementary schools. About one-third of the total population of students is involved in our in-school program. Students enrolled in the program receive an extra major area of study daily. Students MUST maintain good conduct and grades in order to remain in the program. Eighth graders are encouraged to apply to arts high schools. Meyer Levin Intermediate School has become synonymous with fine arts education throughout New York.

Notes

- Throughout this report, N/A signifies that data were not applicable.
- Learning Environment Survey data are based on responses from schools where students provided responses to the 2007/8 Learning Environment Survey and are based on the perception of students about the arts in this school. For more information on how well this school supports student learning in the arts, please visit the 2007 - 2008 Learning Environment Survey which is located on the Statistics section of this school's website.
- Schools may have more than six arts and cultural service providers, but due to space constraints we were unable to list all of the arts or cultural organizations with which they work.
- All data are based on arts instruction offered during the school day. This Annual Arts in Schools Report does not report on after school, weekend, and summer arts education.
- Percentages of the Learning Environment Survey data may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding. The percentages are not based on a student response rate of 100%.

Definitions

- A dedicated arts classroom is a classroom that is only used for dance, music, theater, and visual arts.
- For a detailed description of what an appropriately equipped arts classroom is, please refer to the Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts, <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/blueprint.html>.
- A blackbox theater is a simple, unadorned performance space, usually a large square room with black walls and a flat floor.
- General or core music is a broad-based study of music including music making, literacy, connections to world cultures, community resources and careers and life-long learning.

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<http://schools.nyc.gov/Academics/Arts>

ⁱ In grades 1 – 3, this is 186 hours equally allocated throughout the entire school year through dance, music, theater, and visual arts. In grades 4, 5, and 6, this is the equivalent of 93 hours equally allocated throughout the entire school year through dance, music, theater, and visual arts.