

Sample Overview



OPENING MINDS THROUGH THE ARTS / TUCSON

Sample of the application of key messages to define OMA Program using benefit statements (what the program delivers) rather than feature statements (a description of the program)

A student achievement program that uses the arts to teach skills used in math, science, reading, writing, and other subjects.

1

RAISING STUDENT TEST SCORES

OMA invests in the research that shows that it raises student test scores and teacher effectiveness (based on AIMS and National Stanford 9 testing)

2

BASED ON SCIENCE

OMA curriculum is based on student brain development research to engage specific skills targeted to each grade.

Kindergarten: Auditory Acuity — string or woodwind artists
 1st Grade: Language Acquisition / Literacy Development — opera
 2nd Grade: Critical Thinking — dance and music
 3rd Grade: Composition / Enhanced Academic Skills — recorder
 4th Grade: Abstract Reasoning / Spatial Intelligence — violin
 5th/6th Grade: Research / Create / Perform — composition

NATIONALLY
 RECOGNIZED
 AS A LEADING
 STUDENT
 ACHIEVEMENT
 PROGRAM

3

ENGAGING EVERY STUDENT

Every OMA class day, every student learns math and science and language by participating in the arts... OMA classroom teachers, arts integration specialists, and teaching artists light the spark of learning... no child is left behind.

4

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Bringing together students, teachers, administrators, parents, funders, academic partners, public policy makers, and the arts community — symphony, opera, theater, dance, and visual arts.

5

TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS

OMA dramatically shifts the environment in school buildings and classrooms — teachers and students fully engaged, music in the hallways, attendance increased.

Sample Fact Sheet

Statement of basic OMA Program facts: to change only with central office approval

WHAT IS OMA?

OMA is Tucson's remarkable school transformation program that is increasing student achievement through arts integration.

The OMA Program, developed in the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), uses the arts to teach academic standards in math, science, reading, writing and social studies and is designed around state and federal standards. In OMA schools, all ethnic backgrounds, regardless of socioeconomic status, showed improvement on mandated tests (AIMS, Terra Nova, and Stanford 9) in all tested areas. The quality of the OMA Program and the documented student achievement results have gained national recognition from the U.S. Department of Education, Harvard Project Zero, Arts Education Partnership, and others.

OMA TRANSFORMS SCHOOLS

OMA engages every child in the classroom to become an empowered learner. The OMA curriculum is based on brain development research to bring specific skills targeted to each grade from kindergarten through middle school.

- Kindergarten: Auditory Acuity (instrumental music)
- 1st Grade: Language Acquisition / Literacy Development (opera)
- 2nd Grade: Critical Thinking (dance)
- 3rd Grade: Composition / Enhanced Academic Skills (recorder)
- 4th Grade: Abstract Reasoning / Spatial Intelligence (violin)
- 5th/6th Grade: Research / Create / Perform (music composition, staging, performance)
- Middle: Cognitive Domain / Synthesis; and Psychomotor Domain / Origination

In OMA schools, discipline problems are down, attendance is up, and parental involvement increased. Failing schools become excelling schools, and student test scores increase across all economic and ethnic groups.

OMA'S IMPACT (2008)

- 19,000 of the total 50,000+ children in TUSD
- 750 of the 5,000 teachers in TUSD
- 44 of 112 TUSD schools

- OMA works with 53 artists from the Tucson arts community
- Every student in each OMA elementary school and participating middle schools is included in the program

MISSION

The mission of OMA is to enhance student achievement and school performance through the use of arts integration in the schools of TUSD.

Alternative: OMA's mission is to turn the tide of dropping student achievement, meet the challenges that a changing collective culture brings to education, enable the education system to get more return on its monetary investment.

VISION

Our vision is that all students in TUSD are motivated to do their best through their experience with arts integration in their classrooms; that every teacher fully embraces the OMA program model of arts integration as a highly effective means for classroom success; and that the TUSD communities of parents, neighbors, businesses and organizations take ownership of and pride in the OMA Program and support it thoroughly.

CORE VALUES

- Every child deserves 1) to be engaged by the experience of learning and 2) help to overcome serious issues they face that put their education and future wellbeing in peril.
- Adults and the institutions that enable learning have the capacity and the will to create the systems that succeed for our children.
- The power of the arts to touch the whole human being — mind, body, spirit — makes it the most consequential tool we have for reaching children during the most important years of their learning lives. That makes arts integration a powerful tool for teaching students in the curricular areas that are tested.
- Communities, especially parents, have a substantial and essential role to play in the successful education of all children.
- Teachers and the team of support around them are the point of contact between a student and the program that engages that student.