Humans have expressed how we see the world and our place within it through visual and musical arts since the beginning of time. Here in Lisle 202, we believe that providing a wide range of fine arts opportunities help students to explore new interests, find new passions, build upon core content skills, and, perhaps just as important, find ways to develop new and unique skills to build connections and express themselves through the arts.

Join us as we explore the many ways in which Lisle 202 students participate in the arts and develop skills for the future.

Pictured: Lisle High School MOSAIC Band & Choir Concert
We often think of a painting, a sculpture, or even a photograph when we consider “art,” but the Visual Arts’ impact goes far beyond the mere ability to see an object. Incorporating Visual Arts into our students’ experiences provides an avenue to unleash their creativity and encourage them to express how they “see and think” about the world around them. Cultivating an understanding of history, culture, creativity, and imagination through Visual Arts helps broaden perspective, strengthen confidence, as well as expand problem-solving and interpersonal skills that will be essential throughout our students’ lives.

The Visual Arts Program in Lisle 202 begins in Kindergarten and provides learning experiences that can expand beyond students’ school experience and affect their future work life. Skillful use of interpersonal work skills such as collaboration, conveyance of ideas, divergent thinking, empathy, resilience, self-awareness, and the ability to translate everyday life experiences, both visual and non-visual, into new knowledge will position our students for future success.

As Ava S., a fifth grade student, said, “Art doesn’t mean only one thing; it can’t mean only one thing. Art is very deep. For me, Art is a way to express my feelings and emotions in a way that words can’t.”

Fine Arts classes open your mind to new experiences and ways to look at the world.
~Valerie, Senior
Being a part of the band is far more than playing an instrument. Research now shows that time spent learning music has a broad range of benefits such as strengthening memory capacity, developing coordination and fine motor skills, and establishing practice and self-improvement habits. Beyond that, the environment created through a shared vision and purpose of creating music supports connectivity among the students. In fact, a study conducted at Freie University Berlin found that “When playing music in a group, individuals have contact with other individuals, engage in social cognition, participate in co-pathy (the social function of empathy), communicate, coordinate their actions, and cooperate with each other, leading to increased social cohesion.” From Social Contact to Social Cohesion—The 7 Cs

In Lisle 202, our students have the opportunity to become a part of the “band family” beginning in 5th grade. Students select their instrument then quickly begin to develop practice and performance skills. In junior high, the band students progress in their skill and also increase their understanding of how their role contributes to the whole performance. Students learn to pay attention to details and to listen to each other. The next level of band performance comes in high school. Whether developing personal instrument skills, participating in marching band, or expanding their musical experience with musicians from across the conference and State of Illinois, our students learn that, as Junior Dylan P. said, “...being a part of a group, recognizing how small parts play their role in the bigger group, and learning how to listen to others,” are all skills that are developed during their time in Lisle Bands.
LISLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
5th grade Band

LISLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Concert Band
Symphonic Band
6th grade Jazz Band
7th & 8th grade Jazz Ensemble

LISLE HIGH SCHOOL
Concert Band
Symphonic Band
Jazz Ensemble
Percussion Studies
Advanced Placement Music Theory
Marching Band
Pep Band

DISCOVERING & DEVELOPING TALENTS

The fine arts classes give you so many opportunities to express yourself and understand art at a deeper level. Even if it is not something you want to do as a career, it allows you to look at life from a different perspective and gives you an outlet to be yourself.

~Drew S., Senior, All-State Musician
One of the skills I am learning in choir right now is how to really blend my sound with others in my group. This will help me in the future by allowing me to really know how to work with others and be patient.

~ Angie E., 7th Grade
Have you ever sung a verse of “Baby Shark” or “Happy Birthday”? Or heard your favorite song on the radio and you couldn’t help but sing along? For centuries music and singing have been a universal language that elicits emotions, brings people together and builds community through a common interest and understanding. One could say that it is a second universal language along with math!

In Lisle 202, the choir program incorporates just that, a community where students build connections while developing skills that will be used throughout their lives. Daniel Levitin, a neuroscientist and author of This is Your Brain on Music, says that music stimulates all areas of our brain. Levitin found that people’s brain activity changes when they sing together. Group singing isn’t just good for the soul — it’s good for the body!

When we asked our choir students about their experience in the Lisle 202 choral program, their comments supported Levitin’s research. Students reported benefits such as teamwork, self-expression, community, and fun! Sophomore Anika M. said, “Leadership, working as a team, social skills, and good work-ethic are skills I am gaining through my choir classes that prepare me for the future.”

The Lisle 202 Choral Program takes pride in offering a carefully layered approach to building a practical music program that integrates essential life skills and is engaging for our students. Students explore choral music in elementary school through general music class. Those interested in expanding their choral experience may also participate in the Chorus program beginning in 4th Grade as a co-curricular activity. When students enter junior high, they have the opportunity to expand their musical knowledge through a dedicated choir elective, including Cadet and Concert Choir, and finally, Lisle High School students may elect classes and choirs such as Varsity Singers and Chorale to continue a more in-depth level of music education.

**LISLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Weekly music classes for K-5th grade students
4th & 5th grade Chorus

**LISLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**
Cadet Choir
Concert Choir

**LISLE HIGH SCHOOL**
Concert Choir
Tenor Bass Association
Chorale
Varsity Singers
Advanced Placement Music Theory
Spring Musical

*Pictured: 2022 District Choral Festival featuring choirs from elementary through high school.*
First built as Lisle Community High School in 1956, the current Lisle Junior High School building began serving junior high students in 1974. Since that time, this facility has seen one significant renovation in the 1980s that expanded the commons area and added office space to the front of the building; however, it has not seen any large scale renovations to the learning/classroom spaces since it became the junior high school.

Learning and teaching has seen many changes over the years. Lisle District 202 addressed improving the learning spaces at Lisle High School in 2001, and most recently with the new Lisle Elementary School for our youngest students, and now it is time to begin the process of updating Lisle Junior High School to ensure it best serves the community for the next generations of students.

The renovations will primarily focus on modernizing and upgrading learning spaces such as science, technology, and the arts, while also enhancing the library and building-wide collaborative spaces. Logistical renovations will improve the current student pick-up/drop off, entrance security, and the building’s heating and air conditioning units. Finally, the facility modifications will also provide options for re-balancing the attendance centers if enrollment continues to increase at a pace of about twenty-five additional students per year.

Lisle District 202 is beginning discussions and developing plans to improve the current classroom and common spaces at the Junior High to meet the needs of students both today and in the future. Renovations are expected to begin in 2023 and be completed over the course of three years, mainly in the summer months, to minimize disruption to students and staff.

We are pleased to share that through careful financial planning, the District is positioned to renovate the Lisle Junior High School learning environments. The District intends to fund the majority of the project through the issuance of bonds, taking advantage of historically low interest rates, and paying for the renovations over a period of approximately 15 years.

Stay Connected with Lisle 202!

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