

Las Virgenes Unified School District

K-5 Standards-based

**Elementary
Music and Visual Arts
Education Plan**



**Presented to the Las Virgenes School Board
July 22, 2008**

Las Virgenes Unified School District

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All of the arts depend upon the use of the human's most exquisite capacity – judgment . . . They are fundamental resources through which the world is viewed, meaning is created, and the mind is developed.

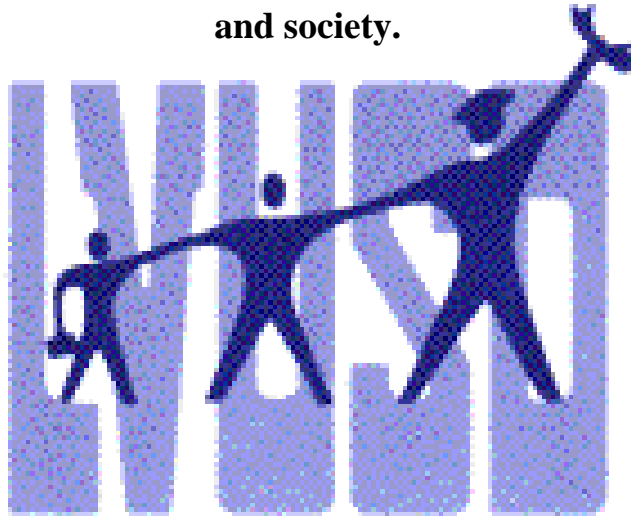
— Elliot Eisner

**Las Virgenes Unified School District
Elementary Music and Visual Arts Task Force Members**

- Mary Schillinger, Assistant Superintendent of Education
- Rose Dunn, Director of Elementary and Alternative Education
- Brent Noyes, Principal, Yerba Buena Elementary School
- Somer Harding, Principal, Chaparral Elementary School
- Dr. Abbe Irshay, Principal, White Oak Elementary School
- Sue LeMarr, Teacher, Round Meadow Elementary School
- Colleen Fitzgerald, Teacher, Willow Elementary School
- Carol Harris, Teacher, Bay Laurel Elementary School
- Kika Wilson, Teacher, Round Meadow Elementary School
- Joan Woods, Teacher, Lupin Hill Elementary School
- Ann Lazo, Community Member
- Celena Turney, Arts Education Consultant

Vision Statement Of Las Virgenes Unified School District

The mission of the Las Virgenes Unified School District is to ensure that all programs are dedicated toward enhancing student achievement, and that each school is a humanistic organization, valuing students emotionally and academically, providing the highest quality education possible in a personalized environment. We aspire to enable each student to realize maximum potential as a responsible citizen who will enhance the community and society.



Vision Statement Of the Visual and Performing Arts Task Force

It is our vision to offer a balanced, comprehensive arts program where arts are studied as discrete disciplines while bringing academics to life. We strive to empower all students to be creators and learners – providing opportunities for hands-on, inspired, standards-based instruction in the areas of *artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relationships, and applications*. It is essential that we develop a culture that fosters creative expression, enhanced by collaborative partnerships in the arts. We will work to enable every school to be resource-ready to create and display arts, everywhere all the time.

Project Background and Planning Process

In early 2007, the Las Virgenes Unified School District formed task forces to develop recommendations for the Board of Education regarding how the SB 1131 Arts and Music block grant funds could best be allocated to meet district-wide needs. Three areas of greatest need were identified:

1. Consistent implementation of district-wide Elementary Music, Visual Arts, and Physical Education programs.
2. Additional funding to support existing Secondary Music, Visual Arts, and Physical Education programs.
3. More Professional Development opportunities.

In February 2008, the district engaged Arts Education consultant, Celena Turney to provide coaching and group facilitation for the development of its district-wide Elementary Music and Visual Arts Program. A Visual and Performing Arts Task Force was convened and designed the implementation plan under consideration at the July 22, 2008 Board of Education meeting. The following components formed an integral part of the planning process:

1. 3-5 year Practical Vision Statement
2. Strategic Directions
3. Implementation Plan for the 2008/2009 school year

State of the Arts in the Las Virgenes Unified School District

Strengths

- Parent groups have funded 16 Elementary Music and Visual Arts Specialists
- There is an interest in the arts from the district's administrators, teachers, and families
- LVUSD benefits from the wealth of talented artists and arts institutions in the district and community
- Our students are enthusiastic learners
- There are many opportunities for student performances and art displays
- LVUSD's Elementary Arts Program enjoys the financial support of district parent groups

Challenges

- There is a lack of equity across the district in the Elementary Arts Program in implementation, space and resources, funding, and qualifications of Arts Specialists
- The Elementary Arts Program is not consistently offered
- Funding streams to sustain an Elementary Arts Program have not been identified
- There is little time to teach the arts during the school day
- The arts are not as valued as other core areas
- Teachers and administrators lack awareness of the VAPA standards
- There are scarce opportunities for standards-based PD in the arts

Strategic Directions for Elementary Music and Visual Arts

Sustainability

- Building dynamic and informed leadership in the arts
- Garnering abundant ongoing funds to sustain arts education
- Procuring resources and space for the optimal arts experience

Infrastructure

- Launching mentoring relationships that spark arts experiences
- Community Partnerships
- Celebrating and showcasing our young artists

Content

- Improving Practice
- Exploring and connecting the academic world through the arts

First Year Goals for Elementary Music and Visual Arts Education

- Identify fundraising activities to support the district's Elementary Arts plan.
- Implement 1 major fundraising event.
- Develop resources for ongoing community art exposure opportunities for students.
- Design a community event to showcase students' VAPA accomplishments.
- Hire a VAPA Coordinator.
- Establish communication network.
- Develop a multi-faceted district-wide plan for professional development in the arts.

Elementary Music and Visual Arts Funds – Phase one

Description	Restricted On-going	Restricted One-time	PFA	Corporate/Grant
VAPA Coordinator (.5 FTE Admin)	\$55,000			
Visual Arts Coach/TOSA	\$40,000			
Music Coach/TOSA	\$40,000			
Curriculum Materials <u>Fall 2008</u>	\$90,000			
Visual Art: K, 1, 2 Music: 3, 4, 5				
<u>Spring 2009</u>	\$90,000			
Visual Art: 3, 4, 5 Music: K, 1, 2				
Supplies (\$12. per child)	\$50,000			
Consultant Fee: Professional Development for Teachers, Administrators		\$10,000		
Teacher Release Time		\$38,000		
Specialist Release Time		\$3,000		
PD Materials		\$8,000		
Music Specialists			\$248,000	
Visual Arts Specialists			\$135,000	
Art Festival Showcase				\$10,000
Art Directory				\$500
Fundraising				\$10,500
Totals	\$365,000*	\$59,000	\$383,000	\$21,000

* The curriculum materials are a one-time expense leaving \$185,000 on-going.

Practical Vision Statement for Elementary Music and Visual Arts Education in LVUSD

Arts Bringing Academics to Life	Every Child Every Art	Every School Resource Ready for the Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic projects for each grade • An incorporated curriculum • ARTS INTEGRATION: language, social studies, science, math, PE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARTS PARTICIPATION: Every child has an instrument, sings, dances, paints... • Every student involved in a comprehensive art program • Movement instruction for all • Visual & Performing Arts at all schools • Theater basics/presentation skills for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every school is equipped for all the arts: space, materials • Appropriate resources • Visual Arts Program at every Elementary School with kiln.

Hands and Voices Making Music	Empowering Students as Creators and Leaders	A Culture that Fosters Creative Expression
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orff instrument instruction for all students • Orchestral instrument instruction offered • CHILD-ORIENTED: Age appropriate instruments Appropriately themed dance/music • 4th and 5th grade violin program • Numerous chorus opportunities offered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHILD INITIATED: writes plays writes music creates own vision • Students as VAPA leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CREATIVE COMMUNITY: Diversity, appreciation, sharing, supportive • Students trying new things • Hands-on experience

Arts on Display... everywhere all the time.	Creative Collaborative Partnership for the Arts	Inspired Standards-Based Instruction In the Arts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Festival where the arts are displayed • Pod cast of Visual Arts Programs • Spring Arts Festival • Visual Arts Displays: color, texture, design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community involved and supportive • Community/business support • Arts Appreciation: Professional theatre, museums, concerts • Exposure • Mentoring by professionals or high school students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sequential K-12 programs • Professional art instruction for all

Strategic Directions for Music and Visual Arts Education in Las Virgenes USD

What innovative, substantial actions will move us toward our vision?

<p style="text-align: center;">Sustainability</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Policy, Funding, Program Evaluation, Communication, Advocacy, District Leadership</p>	<p>Building dynamic and informed leadership in the arts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District-wide agreement for hiring of teachers of the Arts • Hire art specialists • Educate principals to ensure accountability 	<p>Garnering abundant ongoing funds to sustain arts education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family art night fundraiser • Auction student art work • “Grammy in the Schools” • Education & celebration of the Arts Day 	<p>Procuring resources and space for the optimal arts experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources for specialists • Designate arts classrooms • Parents buy an Arts “Wish-List” item • Bungalow for Music/Art
<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Admin/Coordination, Personnel, Facilities and Equipment, Partnership and Collaboration</p>	<p>Launching mentoring relationships that spark arts experiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school/college mentors for the arts • Partnerships with universities • Host family arts nights (creating, making together) • Multi-cultural assemblies in the arts • Field trips • Artists’ career day 	<p>Community Partnerships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display art in community business • Multi-school arts show in community • Grammy in the Schools” 	<p>Celebrating and showcasing our young artists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Fashion Show” of art (background music played by students) • Schools designate space for displays • Access on the web
<p style="text-align: center;">Content</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum, Pedagogy, Student Assessment, Professional Development</p>	<p>Improving Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings for Arts specialists (make sure on “same page”) • Professional development of music standards (fun seminar/day retreat?) • Quarterly specialists meetings • Collaboration among specialists • Teaching arts standards 	<p>Exploring and connecting the academic world through the arts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialists and teachers coordinating (integrated) curriculum • Grade level thematic projects • 5 minutes a day Arts Appreciation 	

First Year Implementation Plan for Elementary Visual Arts and Music Education, LVUSD

Strategic Direction: Garnering abundant ongoing funds to sustain arts education.				
1 st Year Goals	Quarter 1 Sep-Dec	Quarter 2 Jan-Mar	Quarter 3 Apr-Jun	Quarter 4 Jul-Sep
<p>Identify fundraising activities to support the district’s Elementary Arts plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an executive fundraising committee with VAPA coordinator • Establish a VAPA Foundation • Research available resources • Develop a communication plan 	<p><u>Establish a fundraising committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create committee description • Identify and recruit members (through city councils, principal and site meetings, school website, financial advisors, Chambers of Commerce) • Schedule and calendar mtgs <p><u>Research funding sources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public funds/grants • Corporate sponsors/grants • Private funds (Foundation) • Financial advisors <p><u>Develop a communication plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create letter of introduction and intent for recruiting committee members and financial purposes • Coordinate w/ VAPA TF • Inform community of arts activities <p><u>Establish a VAPA Foundation</u></p>	<p><u>VAPA Task Force meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on activities • Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF <p><u>Identify funding deadlines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot deadlines for grants on calendar • Gather required documentation • Write grants and proposals; submit 	<p><u>VAPA Task Force meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on activities • Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF • Write summary report of fundraising activities to board • Make recommendations for next year • Communicate work of committee to community 	<p><u>VAPA Task Force planning sessions for 2009-2010</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin pre-planning • Propose budget for following year (projected) • Establish Endowment for the Arts
<p>Implement 1 major fundraising event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an event committee • Design a high-profile district-wide fundraising event 	<p><u>Establish an event committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit members • Schedule and calendar meetings • Select rep. to attend Exec. Comm. meetings • Establish event subcommittees <p><u>Begin event planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brainstorm ideas • Identify key players • Develop marketing and communication plan • Collaborate with community and district players 	<p><u>Continue event planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates to larger committees • Attend to last minute details 	<p><u>Continue event planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates to larger committees • Attend to last minute details • Have the event!!! • Celebrate the success • Communicate to greater community <p><u>Debrief event</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate • Spot planning for next year • Write Thank yous 	<p><u>Begin event planning for next year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish event committee leadership • Schedule and calendar meetings • Select venue

First Year Implementation Plan for Elementary Visual Arts and Music Education, LVUSD

Strategic Direction: Establishing District-wide Community Partnerships.

1 st Year Goals	Quarter 1 Sep-Dec	Quarter 2 Jan-Mar	Quarter 3 Apr-Jun	Quarter 4 Jul-Sep
<p>Develop resources for ongoing community art exposure opportunities for students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin exhibiting student work (revolving art shows) • Publish a directory of community arts partners and exhibit venues. 	<p><u>Establish a community arts partnership committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit members, representing all strands of the arts • Schedule/calendar mtgs. <p><u>Develop a communication plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal/external reach via email, e-letter, website • Provide info for regular opps to collaborate <p><u>Begin resource development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set goals/expectations for involvement and collaboration • Brainstorm involvement opportunities for partners • Identify appropriate venues for showcases • Discuss budget/negotiate • Establish criteria for showings 	<p><u>VAPA Task Force meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on activities; communicate needs to VAPA TF • Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF <p><u>Continue development of community resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that district (primary and secondary) student and teacher reps are included in conversation of needs and opportunities <p><u>Begin to showcase student work</u></p>	<p><u>VAPA Task Force meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on activities; communicate needs to VAPA TF • Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF <p><u>Publish directory of community arts partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venues • Artisans • Volunteer groups • Event Support <p><u>Continue showcasing student work</u></p>	<p><u>VAPA Task Force planning sessions for 2009-2010</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin pre-planning • Propose budget for following year (projected) <p><u>Celebrate progress of 1st year's work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest! • Thank yous to community partners • Recount experiences to gain new ideas and perspectives for next year <p><u>Evaluate success of showcases</u></p>
<p>Design a community event to showcase students' VAPA accomplishments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify student work to be showcased • Research existing community arts festivals • Develop budget and communication plans 	<p><u>Establish an arts showcase committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit school and community members • Schedule/calendar mtgs. <p><u>Research existing community arts festivals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find venue for showcase event <p><u>Develop event budget and communication plans</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to VAPA TF <p><u>Select date, time, venue for LVUSD Arts Festival.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kick-off for ongoing, revolving art shows? 	<p><u>VAPA Task Force meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update on activities; communicate needs to committee <p><u>Establish criterion for student work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and medium • Outcome of standards-based work (look at instruction) <p><u>Continue event planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide updates to larger committees • Attend to last minute details • Set up event subcommittees 	<p><u>Hold showcase event</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate the success!!! • Communicate to greater community • Debrief event • Evaluate and make recommendations for next year • Write Thank yous 	<p><u>Begin event planning for next year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish event committee leadership • Schedule and calendar meetings • Select venue • Consider long term goals

First Year Implementation Plan for Elementary Visual Arts and Music Education, LVUSD

Strategic Direction: Building dynamic and informed leadership in the arts.

1 st Year Goals	Quarter 1 Sep-Dec	Quarter 2 Jan-Mar	Quarter 3 Apr-Jun	Quarter 4 Jul-Sep
<p>Hire a VAPA Coordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the roles, duties, and responsibilities of the position. 	<p><u>Pre-quarter activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop criteria for job description Interview committee formed Advertise for position, interview, select VAPA coordinator <p><u>Establish duties of VAPA coordinator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop annual calendar Site visits Coordinate Elementary VAPA activities Plan and oversee meetings w/ VAPA TF Serve as liaison for community resources 	<p><u>Hold VAPA Task Force meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide update on activities; communicate needs to VAPA TF Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF <p><u>Serve as liaison for district VAPA activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue site visits Coordinate resources and opportunities for PD to build district capacity for the arts Establish schedule for regular communication between schools across district 	<p><u>Hold VAPA Task Force meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide update on activities; communicate needs to VAPA TF Respond to identified needs of VAPA TF <p><u>Serve as liaison for district VAPA activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue site visits Coordinate resources and opportunities for PD to build district capacity for the arts Continue regular communication between schools across district 	<p><u>VAPA Task Force planning sessions for 2009-2010</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin pre-planning Calendar meetings and events for next year Propose budget for following year (projected) Compile committee reports for board summary of the district's arts activities Evaluate First Year progress
<p>Establish communication network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build relationship between VAPA TF, schools, and district office. Develop regular communication plan to meet internal and external needs. 	<p><u>Link stakeholders through communication.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate ways to use technological resources (existing and new) to communicate Establish regular means of communication -- credibility/viability of program <p><u>Communicate opportunities for stakeholders to gain capacity for arts instruction.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings, seminars, or trainings on understanding the standards & how to implement in instruction Calendar meetings 	<p><u>Communicate district elementary arts activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter/website Set deadlines for submissions <p><u>Administer an inventory of arts resources at the school sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify needs Facilitate procurement by aligning need w/ vision of arts ed prgm. <p><u>Coordinate identified arts learning opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate logistics to students, teachers, and administrators Budget/finalize contracts 	<p><u>Compile and communicate results of resource inventory</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare report for administrators, VAPA TF Make recommendations for next year <p><u>Coordinate identified arts learning opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate logistics to students, teachers, and administrators Budget and finalize contracts Assist with follow-up (evaluation) 	<p><u>Evaluate effectiveness of 1st year communication efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal/external efforts Design plan to accommodate gaps Research opportunities to expand reach Report findings to VAPA TF

First Year Implementation Plan for Elementary Visual Arts and Music Education, LVUSD

Strategic Direction: Improving Practice.

1 st Year Goals	Quarter 1 Sep-Dec	Quarter 2 Jan-Mar	Quarter 3 Apr-Jun	Quarter 4 Jul-Sep
<p>Develop a multi-faceted district-wide plan for professional development in the arts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research outside programs and providers of arts-centered PD • Establish criteria for improvements in instruction of the specialist to students 	<p><u>Establish a professional development committee and subcommittees</u> (fine art and music)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and recruit members, parents, specialists, school reps • Identify a leader • Decide who will attend mtgs, trainings, fieldtrips • Schedule/calendar mtgs. <p><u>Survey PD needs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create survey instrument with VAPA coordinator • Distribute to classroom teachers, arts specialists, community • Compile/communicate results to VAPA TF, VAPA Coord., and administrators <p><u>Develop a comprehensive plan for professional development at the elementary level</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss/plan for promoting “best practices” in instruction • Ensure that plan builds capacity for arts ed at all levels • Include on-site trainings, mentoring/coaching, opps. for collaboration at grade level or school site meetings, conferences, off-site arts venues, etc. • Coordinate plan implementation and communicate to VAPA TF • Plan for evaluation of PD 	<p><u>Research outside programs and providers of arts-centered PD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate in-classroom coaching possibilities for specialists or teachers • Plan fieldtrips for committee to see quality arts ed programs in action <p><u>Network with schools</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish monthly communication with principal, teaching specialists, and VAPA coordinator <p><u>Establish criteria for improvements in instruction of the specialist to students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate standards in each lesson • Assist arts specialists to design program with scope and sequence • Benchmarks – “These are standards that we covered in K by the end of the year.” • Investigate ways to integrate arts instruction into other curricular areas 	<p><u>Implement PD plan district-wide</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for opps to bring teachers and specialists together to see where the gaps are <p><u>Establish forum for specialists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set dates and venues • To share teaching techniques • Content and Standards-based instruction 	<p><u>Pilot an integrated unit with selected specialists and classroom teachers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create lesson plans, outcomes • Evaluate progress, success and opportunities for replication at other sites <p><u>Collaborative planning retreat for next year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how to build consistency among art specialists • Plan for next steps that will build capacity for arts ed district-wide • Create summary report and recommendations; submit to VAPA TF, VAPA Coordinator