

A+ Essentials: A Set of Commitments TM

Arts In A+ Schools the arts are: • experienced through education, integration and exposure • inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual arts and creative writing • included in curriculum planning and design • integrated in all content areas • valued as essential to creativity, learning and personal experiences • a part of the whole school's identity	Curriculum In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through the use of: • curriculum exploration and mapping • intentional cross-curricular and two-way integration • cross-discipline, horizontal and vertical alignment • enhanced conceptual connections • teacher and student created essential and focus questions • teacher created integrated lessons and thematic units	Multiple Learning Pathways In A+ Schools learning takes varied pathways through: • multiple intelligences theory and practice • brain research and brain-based philosophies • a focus on building 21st century skills and the whole child • on-going reflection on planning and assessment • balancing learning opportunities for all students	Enriched Assessment In A+ Schools enriched assessment is: • designed for learning • inclusive of arts and MI • on-going and integrated • experiential and collaborative • a reflective practice • used to help meet school system requirements • used as a self-assessment tool by teachers & students
Experiential Learning In A+ Schools experiential learning is grounded in: • student engagement • arts-based and hands-on learning experiences • the creative process and inquiry-based instruction • the understanding of entry points and differentiated instruction • multi-faceted assessment opportunities	Collaboration In A+ Schools collaboration: • is intentional and valued • is fostered by administration and faculty • is given priority by providing time for classroom and special area teachers to plan together • occurs throughout the day and in many ways • helps to build relationships within and outside the school community	Climate In A+ Schools climate is enhanced because: • students and teachers are excited about learning • supportive environments build morale and reduce stress • there is a focus on life-long learning for the entire school community • teaching and learning through arts and MI is fun • sharing and celebrating together builds joy	Infrastructure In A+ Schools infrastructure supports the philosophy by: • fostering supportive and shared leadership • addressing daily logistics to allow for collaboration • providing appropriate space and supplies for the arts • continually developing faculty commitment and maintaining a shared vision • providing relevant professional development and mentoring new faculty