

## HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS MONITORING REPORT – R-5 Fine Arts

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Cindy Elsberry, Superintendent

Disposition of the Board:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ In compliance  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Not in compliance  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Compliance with exception

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date:  
Joe DeFeo, Board Chair

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

R-4 – Fine Arts	Supt	Supt	Board	Board
	In compliance	Not in compliance	In compliance	Not in compliance
Each student will achieve mastery of performance standards or state competencies in Fine Arts.	✓			

**Interpretation:** I interpret this policy to mean that Horry County Schools will implement a course of study that is aligned with the South Carolina Visual and Performing Arts Academic Standards which outline what our students should know and be able to do in the arts. This comprehensive document addresses dance, music, theatre, and visual arts standards from preschool through advanced high school art courses. In Horry County Schools, students in grades PK-5 receive instruction in music and visual art from certified teachers in those disciplines. In the majority of middle and in all high schools, students have the opportunity to study visual art, band, chorus, and orchestra. In a majority of our high schools and in some middle schools, students also have the opportunity to take drama and public speaking course work. At the Academy for Arts, Science, and Technology, students may currently select a major in theatre, art, or entertainment technology.

I further interpret this to mean that the staff will regularly monitor and evaluate the instructional programs at each school offering arts course work as part of the ongoing efforts to improve student learning in the areas of Fine Arts. Staff will also provide ongoing support through professional development opportunities designed to support arts teachers in developing curricula and assessments, developing content knowledge,

and promoting exceptional end products and performances in the arts programs in the schools.

## **Indicators of Evidence and Compliance:**

**We are in full compliance of this policy. Evidence is listed below:**

- The district has established a fine arts theme in the Carolina Forest attendance cluster. Carolina Forest High School Drama Department has been selected to perform in the world's most prestigious arts festival as part of the American High School Theatre Festival taking place in Scotland in August 2014.
- The district has added dance to the course offerings of Black Water Middle School in order to support the fine arts theme in the Carolina Forest attendance cluster. Black Water's Dance, Chorus, Art and Drama Departments work closely together with the high school arts staff to coordinate a comprehensive 6-12 program that includes sophisticated theatrical productions and performance by the other performing arts groups. As well, Black Water offers traditional and digital visual arts courses to its students.
- The district has added dance to the exploratory offerings at Waccamaw Elementary School.
- Since the establishment of the Carolina Forest fine arts theme in 2012, Carolina Forest High School has added 8 additional courses – AP Art 3-D, AP Music Theory, Digital Photography, Pottery, Piano 2, Jazz Band, and Musical Theatre – with an increase of 213 student enrollments in fine arts classes. The school will offer 32 fine arts courses for the upcoming school year.
- Myrtle Beach High School students presented "Wizard of Oz" as a spring musical, which is the first musical the school has produced in eight years.
- Horry County Schools curricula and course offerings are aligned with the South Carolina Visual and Performing Arts Academic Standards and the National Standards for Arts Education.
- Instructional materials adoption processes comply with state requirements.
- The Fine Arts page on the district web site provides curriculum, information, useful links, and news about the fine arts program of the district.  
[http://www.horrycountyschools.net/pages/Horry\\_County\\_Schools/Ac2/Curriculum\\_\\_\\_Instruction/Fine\\_Arts\\_Group](http://www.horrycountyschools.net/pages/Horry_County_Schools/Ac2/Curriculum___Instruction/Fine_Arts_Group)

- The district has developed and implemented class observation documents to guide staff, administrators, and teachers to share a common vision of what excellence in arts classrooms looks like. These are published on the Fine Arts page of the district web site.
- The district is able to compare numbers and achievement of middle and secondary music students through analysis of numbers of students making the annual All-County Music groups and by their ranking within the sections. As well, annual recordings of the All-County groups document the steady improvement of music students' achievement on a district-wide basis.
- Visual arts, theatre, dance and music students annually receive awards and recognitions individually and as part of ensembles.
- Music ensembles from the district are frequently invited to perform for prestigious conferences (SC School Board Association, Blue-Ribbon Schools, Middle School Association, etc.) *This year the St. James High School Chorale will perform for the SCSBA Conference.*
- The number of Horry County students accepted at local and national universities as fine arts majors has increased in recent years. *One indicator of this increase is that between 8 to 10% of the Fine Arts teaching staff are Horry County Schools alumni who have returned to our staff after completing post-secondary work and earning their teaching certificate in an arts area.*
- Expanded teaching methodologies such as integration of language arts vocabulary approaches, music technology ("Smart Music"), elementary guitar, percussion and keyboard instruction to complement traditional singing, secondary keyboard (piano) instruction, graphic arts, video editing, interactive white boards, and Interwrite pads have been implemented to expand and improve learning opportunities in the arts.
- Fine arts teachers are active in their respective professional organizations and many have served as officers, committee members, and presenters. Art educators in Horry County Schools are a source of leadership for others throughout the state and region. Carolina Forest High School theatre director Wayne Canady has been chosen to receive the 2014 Directors Award from the American High School Theatre Festival.
- Students in grades 6 through 11 are identified as Artistically Gifted and Talented in compliance with the South Carolina Department of Education's Best Practices Manual and provided exceptional learning opportunities through attendance at the residential Summer Arts Academy, a cooperative project with Coastal Carolina University.
- The district is monitoring enrollment in music ensembles in grades 6-12 in an effort to work towards a goal of enrollment in all schools at targeted percentages of the total student body. The district fine arts specialist is

working with individuals and groups in all attendance areas to monitor enrollment and to develop strategies to make music ensembles accessible to the largest number of students possible.

- Horry County Schools high school students have been accepted to attend the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.
- Horry County Schools has earned national honors as one of 2014's "Best Communities for Music Education" designated by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.
- The "Waves of the Future" performance sponsored by the Chicora Rotary Club has presented a second showcase of HCS performers featuring K-12 soloists and ensembles on the stage of The Carolina Opry.

**Fine Arts at Black Water:** In building the fine arts program at Black Water Middle School the two positions which created the "magnet status" were dance and media arts. Enrollments in these programs for the 2013-2014 academic year fall under these regulations and were as follows:

**Dance:** 122 students were served in the year long course in the first year under the direction of Osagie Ehigie. The enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year exceeds state regulations of 150 students and therefore, students have been placed on a waiting list.

**Media Arts:** 240 (maximum 300) students were served in the course of the year in semester classes. (117 first semester and 123 second semester). There was room for growth to meet the maximum student enrollment load. The enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year is very close to the state regulation of 150 students. It is anticipated that a waiting list will be established for this as well.



## **Black Water Middle School and the Performing Arts Theme:**

Black Water Middle School has embraced the Performing Arts Theme adopted for the Carolina Forest Attendance Area. Inspired by the successes in the Arts at Carolina Forest High School the middle school arts staff has worked closely with the high school arts teachers to model themselves into a highly correlated feeder program. 62% of Black Water students choose to participate in year long courses and while other students



are enrolled rotational exploratory courses where students may sample: World Drumming, Art, Theater, Foreign Language, Media Arts, Art, and Physical Education.



**Band:** The band program is an active participant in the life of the school with regular concerts on campus. As well the bands are active in SCMEA events and regularly place members in All-Regional Band. The band competes in the SCMEA State Band Festival and their most recent rating was Superior.

**Chorus:** The chorus has been rapidly expanding and improving in recent years. These students have earned a spot in each of the first two years of the Chicora Rotary club's "Waves of the Future" Performance at the Carolina Opry including having one of a handful of soloists this year. The chorus department works closely with Drama and has a major supporting role in all dramatic productions.



**Dance:** BWMS is the only middle school in the district with a dance program. An exciting teacher, good facilities, an actual feeder program at Waccamaw Elementary and enthusiastic students has resulted in exceptional performances by the dancers of Black Water.

**Drama:** The Drama Department has a rich heritage that dates back to the original Carolina Forest Middle School. This program has staged plays that are generally thought of as high school productions rather than the usual "Junior" designation. In recent years the Drama Department supported by art, chorus and dance as well as the school in general, has produced "Annie", "Cinderella" and "Little Shop of Horrors" among other theatrical productions.



**Orchestra:** Orchestra is offered in all three grades at BWM. The orchestras perform regular on campus as well as at the feeder elementary schools. Orchestra students as well as band and chorus students all occupy seats in the Horry All-County Ensembles each year.

**Visual Arts:** While not specifically in the "performing" arts, the Visual Arts program of BWM is also exceptional among our middle schools in that they have a traditional arts program as well as a digital art program. Students have the option to study foundations of art such as figure drawing, painting and pottery as well as media, on-line graphics, digital cartooning and



photo and video editing. The Digital Arts portion of the program has been a leader in the schools efforts in the annual Technology Fair.



Students from Black Water are annually identified as Artistically Gifted.

