

International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts

## PRINCIPLES OF EXEMPLARY PRACTICE

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## Program Description and Application

# Principles of Exemplary Practice

The International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools promotes high quality in arts education by acknowledging the values embraced by member schools. Those schools that submit an application for recognition of their meeting the NETWORK's Principles of Exemplary Practice are awarded a certificate of exemplary practice, symbolizing the schools' commitment to excellence.

Certificates of Exemplary Practice are issued to individual schools in recognition of excellence in four areas: administration, teaching staff, school/parent relations and equity and justice . The application involves a checklist and self-assessment corresponding to these principles.

The **STAR SCHOOL** program honors member schools meeting these Principles of Exemplary Practice. NETWORK's recognition **does not** represent or replace any accreditation or certification of schools or their programs.

*Schools receiving certificates will then be known as a*

## **NETWORK STAR SCHOOL**

### **Benefits**

- Recognition in Conference Program and NETWORK Directory.
- Printed certificate.
- Prepared news release.
- Listing (and link) on NETWORK Web Site.
- Eligibility to purchase tee shirts and buttons for resale in your community.

### **Conditions**

- Designation is good for two years and is renewable.
- Application fee covers first two years (if application is successful).
- There is a renewal fee of \$200.

For more information, contact:

International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts

Bennett Lentczner, Executive Director

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Berkeley Springs, WV 25411  
USA

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## **International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools**

### **Principles of Exemplary Practice for the Administration**

**The administration and structure of a school for the arts is key to its success as well as the success of the school's staff and students.**

1. The school has a clearly stated mission and goals.
2. The school maintains the highest standards for instruction in the arts and academic areas.
3. The school board and school system upholds the school's mission and goals.
4. The district budget recognizes the cost of maintaining a school with special arts programs.
5. The chief on-site administrator (principal, head, director, et.al.) is designated as the person responsible for budgeting and financial management, maintenance and development of the physical plant, long-range planning, and oversight of all fundraising activities.

**The Chief On-site Administrator (COA) of a school for the arts serves as educational and moral leader and is responsible for enabling the school community to achieve the school's mission. The following principles of exemplary practice provide a common perspective on this leadership responsibility.**

**The Chief On-site Administrator** (principal, head, director, et.al.)

1. upholds the school's mission, goals and standards and articulates them to the constituencies of the school and the wider community.
2. attracts well-qualified faculty and staff members and retains them through an equitable compensation program.
3. provides professional development and evaluation programs that recognize the unique characteristics of arts faculty.
4. works with the faculty and staff to examine the needs of students and to put in place programs and policies to meet those needs.
5. regularly involves members of the administration and faculty in administrative decision making, actions and evaluation.
6. ensures the well-being of the entire school by helping all constituencies see the school as part of a network of local, state, regional and national organizations and institutions concerned with educational issues and excellence in arts education.
7. is accessible to all constituencies - faculty, parents, students, and graduates - and ensures that parents are kept informed about the school's policies, programs, and the progress of their children.
8. is seen as a good steward of the school's resources.
9. demonstrates concern for the status of faculty and staff within the school and the larger community.

## **International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools**

# **Principles of Exemplary Practice for the Teaching Staff**

**Entrusted with the education of children, arts school teachers promote the best interests of students within the context of the school's mission and philosophy. Those who supervise teachers are responsible for the quality of teaching and learning, and for actively promoting teacher professional development.**

### **Teachers**

1. have a thorough knowledge appropriate for teaching responsibilities and stay abreast of recent developments in the field.
2. use a variety of teaching techniques suitable to the age and needs of the students and to the subject matter being taught.
3. establish positive relationships with students that are characterized by mutual respect and good will, and recognize the differing roles of adult and child.
4. collaborate appropriately with colleagues and the school's leadership in the design and implementation of curriculum within the context of the school's overall program and mission.
5. initiate growth and change in their own intellectual, professional, and artistic development, seeking out conferences, courses, performance and professional venues, and other opportunities to learn.
6. are self-aware and self-monitoring in identifying and solving student, curricular and school problems.
7. are committed to the mission and policies of the school.
8. serve the school outside of the classroom in a manner established by the school and consistent with the responsibilities of a professional educator. For example, teachers may serve as advisors or activity sponsors.
9. participate in the establishment and maintenance of an atmosphere of collegial support and adherence to professional standards.
10. hold high standards for all students that recognize effort as well as achievement.
11. acknowledge that each classroom and studio is child-centered.
12. take appropriate responsibility for the development of the whole child.

### **Supervisors**

1. acknowledge and support the sometimes special professional development needs of the artist teacher.
2. work together with teachers to assess and improve teacher performance.

## **International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools**

### ***These additional Principles of Exemplary Practice apply to High School educators only.***

All teachers, both academic and artist-teachers, are committed to helping their students move successfully from adolescence to young adulthood, and preparing them to go on to the next steps in their education and/or career.

#### **High School Educators**

1. help students become passionate, serious scholars and young artists capable of effective communication, meaningful collaboration, organized independent work and sustained creative expression.
2. use their training and knowledge of their discipline to develop programs appropriate to the developmental characteristics of high school age students.
3. employ a range of teaching and assessment strategies which invite students to work together and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.
4. strive to teach to the learning styles, abilities and life experiences of their students.
5. develop and sustain good relationships with colleagues, maintaining mutual respect within the school that benefits all students and furthers their own professional growth.
6. recognize that all programs support the growth and development of students.
7. develop and sustain relationships with parents that support each student's well being and autonomy.
8. take responsibility for being good role models.
9. affirm and defend the dignity and worth of every member of the community and maintain an environment that fosters respect for all.
10. regard a diverse school population - students and teachers - as necessary for excellence.
11. help students take on more and more responsibility for themselves and the communities in which they live.
12. prepare students to take advantage of all subsequent opportunities for collaboration and to take their places as members of a democratic society and global community.

## **International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools**

# **Principles of Exemplary Practice in School/Parent Relationships**

**Parents and schools must work together to create and sustain effective partnerships. The following principles describe the respective roles and responsibilities of both parties.**

### **Parents**

1. recognize that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to working with teachers, open lines of communication, mutual respect and a common vision of the goals to be reached.
2. seek a good match for the needs of the student when selecting an arts school, considering their own expectations, and the philosophy and programs of the school.
3. are familiar with, and agree to abide by, the policies and procedures of the school.
4. provide a home environment that supports the student in developing positive learning attitudes and habits.
5. involve themselves in the life of the school as they are able.
6. seek and value the school's perspective on the student.
7. seek information directly from the school when concerns arise, and consult with those best able to address those concerns.
8. share with the school any religious, cultural, medical, or personal information that the school may need in order to serve the student best.

### **Schools, in turn**

1. recognize that effective partnerships are characterized by clearly defined responsibilities, a shared commitment to work together, open lines of communication, mutual respect and a common vision of the goals to be reached.
2. clearly and fully presents their philosophy, program, and practices to parents during the admissions process and encourage dialogue that makes clear parental expectations and aspirations for the student.
3. actively seek and value the parents' perspective on the student.
4. insure that teachers and administrators are accessible to parents and model candid and open dialogue.
5. keep parents well informed through systematic and regular reports, conferences, publications and informal conversations.
6. clearly define how they involve parents when considering major decisions that affect the school community.
7. offer and support a variety of parent education opportunities such as college nights.
8. suggest effective ways for parents to support the educational process.
9. actively seek the knowledge they need to work effectively with a diverse parent body.

## **International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools**

# **Principles of Exemplary Practice in Equity and Justice in Schools**

**The process of creating and sustaining an equitable and just community requires commitment and reflection, as well as conscious and deliberate action and constant vigilance. These principles provide the foundation for such a school community by ensuring the inclusion of a diversity of individuals and groups in all aspects of school life.**

### **The School**

1. respects, affirms and defends the dignity and worth of each member of the school community.
2. lays the groundwork for its commitment to equity and justice in its mission statement.
3. establishes, publishes, implements and monitors policies that promote equity and justice in the life of the school.
4. supports the ongoing education of the board, parents, students and all school personnel as part of the process of creating and maintaining an equitable and just community.
5. ensures a bias-free environment by addressing issues of equity and justice in pedagogy, assessment, curriculum and programs.
6. values each child, recognizing and teaching to varied learning styles, abilities, and life experiences.
7. uses inclusive, bias-free language in all written and oral communication.
8. adheres to local, state, and federal laws and regulations which promote equity.
9. provides appropriate opportunities for leadership and participation in decision making to all members of the school community.
10. engages parents as partners in the process of creating an equitable and just community.
11. develops in its students a sense of responsibility for equity and justice in the broader community.
12. is committed to a diverse population at every level.

# International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools

## STAR SCHOOL Application Procedure

1. Review the NETWORK Principles of Exemplary Practices with all Administration, Faculty, and Parents.
2. Complete information and signature page.
3. Attach the following:
  - a. School's mission and goals statements;
  - b. School organizational chart;
  - c. List of all current school personnel by title and teaching assignment;
  - d. Brief narrative describing how the school meets the Principles of Exemplary Practice. (It is recommended that the narrative be no more than one page in length. Do not address each individual point.)
  - e. Send completed application form and all material along with an application fee of \$200\* to:

Chair, STAR SCHOOL Review Committee

% Executive Director

International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools

5505 Connecticut Avenue, NW #280

Washington, DC 20015

*Note: Materials will not be returned.*

### Application Deadline: MAY 1

- Applications will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- The STAR SCHOOL Review Committee will review all applications received by April 1st.
- The Committee will make its recommendations to the NETWORK Executive Board by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The NETWORK Executive Board will act on all recommendations at its June meeting.
- All applicants will be notified of the status of their application by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Schools receiving the STAR SCHOOL status will be announced in the October issue of NETWORK NEWS.
- STAR SCHOOL Certificates will be presented at the Annual Conference.

\* The application fee will be applied to the first two years of required annual fee (\$100) if the STAR SCHOOL application is approved. Renewal application and fee is required every two years.

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# International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools

## STAR SCHOOL Application

Please Print Clearly

NAME OF SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE LEVELS HOUSED WITHIN THE SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL CATEGORY: Elementary \_\_ Middle \_\_ Jr. High \_\_ Sr. High \_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

CHIEF ON-SITE ADMINISTRATOR \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE \_\_\_\_\_

We have read the International NETWORK of Performing and Visual Arts Schools Principles of Exemplary Practice and certify that the \_\_\_\_\_

(name of school)

meets all requirements for designation as a **NETWORK STAR SCHOOL**.

Required Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief On-site Administrator Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent/CEO Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
and/or Chair, School Board or Board of Trustees Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Faculty Leadership Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title Name of Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Parent Organization Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title Name of Organization