

Dear Community Members via MMSD Press Release:

The Madison Metropolitan School District values the arts as an integral component of a quality education for all students. Research has shown that involvement in the arts teaches children many important academic skills as well as enriches personal growth and development. Tight budgets, however, have increasingly affected the arts education we offer our children.

The School Board formed the Community Fine Arts Task Force to gather information from the community and provide recommendations to the Board on MMSD's arts education program. Specifically, the Board asked the Task Force to:

- Identify community goals for MMSD K-12 arts education including curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular;
- Recommend approaches for increasing participation in arts education for low income students and students of color; and
- Recommend priorities for District funding of fine arts education.

In October and November, the Task Force will be distributing surveys and conducting community conversations to gather information from the community on its goals for fine arts education. We urge you to take the time to participate. You can obtain a copy of the survey when it is available by emailing fineartstaskforce@madison.k12.wi.us.

Your input is very important and will help inform and strengthen the Task Force's work. The results of this work will be completed and presented to the School Board next spring.

We appreciate your participation in this important effort. To learn more about the Community Fine Arts Task Force, go to www.mmsd.org/boe/finearts/.

Sincerely,

Arlene Silveira, President