New Fine Arts Coordinator

It is a pleasure to join the team of outstanding fine arts education instructional leaders in Virginia! I am coming to you from Chesterfield, Virginia with leadership experience in visual art education, design education, and educational technology. It is my hope that you will be well informed, supported, and empowered to provide the best instructional support for fine arts programs in your division. Please contact me anytime with your questions, concerns, and ideas.
Revisions to the 2013 Virginia Fine Arts Standards of Learning

The Virginia Board of Education establishes guidelines and procedures for the review and revision of the Standards of Learning for each subject area in the Standards of Quality. This spring, we will begin the review and revision of our 2013 standards by inviting arts supervisors and teachers from across the Commonwealth to apply to serve on review committees. This opportunity will be advertised through this newsletter communication, on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) website under Superintendent’s Memos, and via Teacher Direct. I hope you will share this opportunity with teachers in your area.

The CVC Campaign Art Contest

The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign is inviting students to submit artwork for a poster contest. Information about this opportunity is available under the February 1, 2019 heading on the Superintendent’s Memos page of the VDOE website. To learn about the CVC Campaign and to see previous winners, you can visit the CVC website.

Visual Arts Supervisors Meeting

On February 5, 2019, several visual arts supervisors gathered at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) to discuss current trends and needs for visual arts education in Virginia. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 from 10 - 3pm at the VMFA. Visual arts supervisors or representatives from all divisions are invited to attend. Please contact the group facilitator, Mike Kalafatis at mckalafatis@henrico.k12.va.us to be added to the contact list and gain access to a folder of resources that this group maintains.
The Virginia Commission for the Arts: 
Art Works for VA Conference

On January 30, 2019, the Virginia Commission for the Arts hosted a one-day conference in Short Pump, Virginia. Highlights of the day include discussions and presentations around cultural equity in the arts, and the Statement of Cultural Equity put out by the commission. In addition, participants were introduced to the Americans for the Arts: Arts + Social Impact Explorer as a tool to explore the intersection of the arts and public life in America. I found this to be a great tool to explore the impact of the arts on jobs, the economy, and many different facets of our communities. You can also explore the economic impact of arts programs by region.

Virginia Thespians Conference

Virginia Thespians, the Virginia Chapter of the Educational Theatre Association, held their annual Festival the first weekend of February. This event is for students, educators, colleges and teaching artists. During the weekend, there are over 100 workshops, 18 individual event competitions, scholarship auditions, a college fair and pre-screen auditions, performances, keynotes, and more! Next year’s Festival will be held at Shenandoah University, January 24-26, 2020.
Virginia Music Education Association
Professional Development Conference 2019

The 2019 VMEA Professional Development Conference will take place on November 21-23, 2019 at The Omni Homestead Resort in historic Hot Springs, Virginia.

Room reservations are now open. Reserve Your Room at the Homestead Reservation Webpage.

There are a limited number of Owner’s Club Houses. Please email vmeaoffice@verizon.net to request a housing form.

I am listening...

I am looking forward to a strong partnership between the Virginia Department of Education and fine arts teachers, leaders, and professional organizations. I hope you will contact me with your ideas, concerns, questions, and feedback on the work of moving arts education forward in Virginia. Email is the best way to reach me, and I am happy to arrange a phone conversation. Also, if you have updates or information you’d like to see in the next issue of this newsletter, please send it my way.

Helpful Links

Fine Arts Instruction on the VDOE Website Look for a new, updated site this summer!
Virginia Art Education Association
Virginia Commission for the Arts
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Virginia Music Educators Association
Virginia Thespians