

The Bates Elementary School is committed to the integration of the arts into the daily life of our school. Our mission statement reads:

*“By focusing on the enhancement of the arts, by building a foundation for literacy and by maximizing the potential of the whole child, the Bates School strives to guide our students beyond their creative horizons, surrounded by a safe, friendly, and child centered community.”*

In addition to the integration of the arts into classroom instruction, all Bates students participate in weekly music, art, and PE classes. The following are additional arts programming that are central to our commitment to the arts:

- Weekly Chorus (Grades 2-5)
- Paperworks Publishing Company (Grade 5)
- Student-selected elective courses (Grades 4&5)
- Student-run “Bates Beacon” newspaper
- Weekly musical instrumental lessons (Grades 4&5)
- Weekly musical instrumental ensemble (Grades 4&5)

Below, please find more information about our music, visual art, and PE programming:

### **VISUAL ARTS (Todd Bleckley, Art Teacher)**

The Art Curriculum here at the Bates School is that of a disciplined based approach, combining self expression with a wide variety of media and techniques, art history, art appreciation, and cultural context. Art lessons will sometimes include a literary connection or language arts component. At other times, an art lesson may be integrated with or include aspects of other disciplines such as related arts, science, social studies, and math. The Art Room and equipment here at the Bates School allow the students many opportunities for advanced projects, particularly in the area of ceramics.

The current arts schedule allows Bates students to have additional art classes beyond the one period per week norm. Art Rotation periods each week are shared within a grade level insuring each group at least an additional 30% art time during the year. Fourth and fifth graders choose different arts electives, one for each trimester. These groups generally have fewer students than a regular class roster which makes them ideal for more advanced and more involved projects, such as ceramics or other three dimensional media.

Every year, third, fourth, and fifth graders participate in a special Multiple Visit Partnership Program with the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. The art teacher, grade level teachers, and PEM staff work together to create a program for the

students integrating museum exhibits, academics, and visual art. A Family Fun Night held in June at the museum features displays of the student work reflecting that year's museum visits and program.

An annual school-wide art show is held here at the Bates School near the end of every school term and encompasses the entire school building. Every Bates student is represented numerous times in displays that reflect the themes and concepts covered during that year's school term. Select pieces of student work are also put on display at the annual district wide art show held in the spring at the high school.

New additions to the art curriculum this year include the "Bates School Paperworks", a student powered enterprise that simulates the workings of an actual business. Students learn how to create various paper related products that they will market, sell, and keep records of, managing expenses and profits. A percentage of profits or product will be donated to an appropriate charitable entity each year. This pilot program currently involves fifth grade students but will be expanded to include other grades as the program develops.

The Bates School is also proud to present "The Bates Beacon", our new school newspaper. Edited and assembled by the Bates Art Teacher, the newspaper combines student and staff generated articles and visuals produced in a format and style similar to that of a real newspaper. This year we will create a new issue for each trimester, but plan to expand the number of issues and the amount of content as participation increases.

### **MUSIC (Ann Berman, Music Teacher)**

Bates Elementary School is an "Enhancement of the Arts" school. We are able to provide our students with more instruction in musical and visual arts. Our goal is to provide our students with a well-rounded education that includes the Arts. Research has shown that students who study the Arts excel better in their academic classes. Studying the Arts also enhances abstract thinking.

Our school was built with the Arts in mind. We have a Music Suite, which includes 2 practice rooms, a small theater, and a classroom for music instruction. The theater is used for Instrumental Music lessons and rehearsals, Chorus rehearsal and small assemblies. We also have a stage in the Cafeteria for larger performances.

Formal Chorus Ensemble begins in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and continues through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. All students in each grade level participate in Chorus. During these rehearsals, students learn to follow the conductor, read a musical score, work on singing together, and appropriate performance and audience behavior. Each grade level has a Winter and Spring performance. Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders participate in our annual Memorial Day program along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

In Music Class, we are very active. We sing and dance, play instruments at all grade levels, learn to read music, learn about composers and create our own compositions! Students in grades K-3 have 1 or 2 music classes/ensembles each week, depending on which trimester we are in. These extra classes are used to reinforce concepts that are covered in their traditional weekly class, as well as introduce more instrument playing, singing, and dancing. Students in grades 4 and 5 also have a weekly Enrichment block either in Music, Art, or PE. In Music, this class is used to explore more deeply instrumental ensemble playing. Students in grades 4 and 5 also have an opportunity to choose and play in the citywide band or orchestra.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (John Robinson, PE Teacher)**

Students at the Bates Elementary School are taking part in a comprehensive physical education program. During their time here at Bates Elementary, students will be exposed to a variety of sports, games, and activities to enhance their love of physical activity; knowledge of physical skills and their understanding of what makes teamwork important; and how they can incorporate it in their day to day lives here at school, and beyond.

Within the past few years, we have been very fortunate to offer our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students the chance to choose which physical education classes they would like to take, in addition to their traditional PE course. Last year we offered a running club, and a flag football club, which were huge successes. This school year, the students were able to choose when they wanted their elective specialist block. In the first day of the elective class, students got a chance to rank their top 4 favorite activities and lessons are being planned around those class votes. Some of the votes included: capture the flag, rope climbing, parachute games, and much, much more!

Our full school 'Walk to School Days' have been a huge hit and have helped us show students that physical activity outdoors is important to a healthy lifestyle. As a school, we are very lucky to have access to a safe walking space. We use a 'remote drop-off' so ALL students, including walkers, car riders, and bus riders, can participate in the walk to school.

Overall, we are very lucky to have the opportunities that we do, and as the physical education teacher here at Bates, I couldn't ask for anything better! I look forward to working with all students and creating students who develop a life long love for physical activity and becoming life long movers!!