



Deer Isle-Stonington Schools: launching lifelong learners and responsible citizens able to keep our island vital.

Kennedy Center Partners in Education

The Deer Isle-Stonington school district and Opera House Arts are honored to have been selected as one of 14 communities nationwide in to participate in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Partners in Education program. Established in 1991, this program is designed to leverage the resources of arts and cultural organizations by creating structured partnerships with their school systems; with the goal of strengthening local education by using teaching artists to establish professional development programs in the arts for all teachers.

Artistic Skills & Practices Improve Student Performance

Data and experience show that arts education enhances student performance and builds stronger, more diversified communities. This is why the federal government has listed the arts as core academic subjects. Our island children need and deserve a 21st century education: one that prepares them to work and to succeed, whether fishing or in other capacities, in a global communications-based economy that demands creative mastery of words, images, sounds, and motion.

FACTS (from a study by the President's Committee on the Arts & Humanities of school districts with arts-integrated curricula):

- Students with high levels of arts outperform "arts-poor" students on virtually every measure.
- The arts have a measurable impact on students in "high-poverty" settings.
- Learning through the arts has significant effects on learning in other domains.
- Arts experiences enhance "critical thinking" abilities and outcomes.
- The arts enable educators to reach students in effective ways.

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers

Teachers are dynamic figures in students' experiences in school. Their influence on learning and attitudes is profound. The new partnership between the Deer Isle-Stonington school district and Opera House Arts is devoted to building on our area's unique creative heritage by using teaching artists to help teachers: enhancing professional opportunities to assist teachers in understanding the beauty, depth, and range of the arts; and to integrate artistic skills and practices into the curriculum; thereby working toward a model for the sustainability of small, rural schools. To this end, the partners will create opportunities for three such professional development opportunities for teachers in 2007-08.