possibility

collaboration

equity

innovation

artcore

Paving the way for a new education paradigm

AN IMMERSIVE ARTS-INTEGRATION MODEL FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

WHAT IS ARTCORE?

ArtCore is an evolving model for arts-based school enhancement that unites community based teaching artists with middle school educators to generate creative, challenging and sustainable learning opportunities for historically marginalized students. Teaching artists work side by side with one grade level of educators per year during three years, modeling arts integration approaches across the school. This collaboration cultivates skilled cohorts of students and renews a strong school culture that values the unique creativity of every student and educator. By engaging every member of the schoool community as a learner, ArtCore goes to the heart of integrative, imaginative and culturally responsive learning.

WHO ARE WE?

ArtCore is a partnership between the Educational Policy Improvement Center, Lane Arts Council and five Lane County, Oregon middle schools. The five current ArtCore teaching artists ("Weavers") have backgrounds ranging from ceramics to theater and printmaking to recycled sculpture.

WE BELIEVE IN...

- ✓ **Collaboration across disciplines**
- ✓ **Dynamic integrated curriculum**
- ✓ **Student-centered learning**
- ✓ **Cohesion & alignment across schools**
- ✓ **A culture of innovation & risk-taking**
- ✓ **A growth mindset & the power of YET!**
- ✓ **Habits of mind embedded across learning**

What does ArtCore feel like to students?

"You're having fun, but focused... You're putting your heart into what you're doing."
-ArtCore student, 2017

VISION

Through cohesive engagement in the arts, ArtCore will catalyze and sustain progress in teaching and learning for marginalized educators and students. By nurturing an unshakeable sense of possibility in educators and developing their skills to integrate the arts into other academic areas, new pathways open for students to engage and persist creatively as lifelong learners.

Earth Strata Woven Wall: 2015-2016

IMPLEMENTATION
Cultivating a Community of Practice

The three approaches below provide direction
to the integrative design process and often overlap.

**Will it align to standards, habits
of mind, essential
skills, or all three?**
How will we evaluate progress?

**Where and when will
we integrate?**
*Which content areas and
which themes?*

1

2

3

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL INTEGRATION

ArtCore projects help students develop communication, collaboration, empathy and self-awareness. When a student becomes aware of his or her emotional responses in learning, they can learn to self regulate, a critical skill to future success. When a student learns how to express feelings effectively, relationships with peers and teachers improve and their engagement in learning increases. With intentional integrative design, arts-based solutions can accomplish these goals and lead to improved behavior management, relationships and healthy forms of expression.

STANDARDS-BASED INTEGRATION

When the arts become an integrated part of other core academic areas, diverse content, skills and knowledge become more accessible and relevant to students. Standards-based integration builds from the specific grade level standards of complementary disciplines to converge on new directions for teaching and learning. Standards-based integration aids in memory retention of content, creates diverse entry points for students, and provides multiple ways for students to represent what they know and can do with that knowledge.

METACOGNITIVE INTEGRATION

ArtCore prioritizes the development of habits of mind, such as keen observation or persistence through challenges. This type of integration designs learning around these habits so that students practice and apply them regularly. The art and academic content serve as access points for these habits. A focus on reflection through the learning process solidifies habits into learning strategies that students can apply flexibly. This type of integration can reinforce a common framework adopted across the school, such as the Studio Habits of Mind.

Let's record what we did
*Build on our accomplishments,
evolve the approach and spread
the opportunity to others.*

How will we co-teach?
*Who takes the lead and
when?*

**How can the process be
improved?**
*Do we refine the steps now
or in the future?*

What do we need?
*Materials?
Space? Visiting experts?*

What's the big idea?
*What are some essential
questions?*

Creative Journaling

An ArtCore student uses chalk pastel to decorate the cover of their "starburst journal" at Oaklea Middle School. Starburst journals are one way that students track their own creative progress in ArtCore classes.

IMPACT
TEACHERS

"ArtCore gives students a chance to really formulate their own meaning about more difficult topics." - ArtCore Teacher, 2016

Through training institutes and school-based workshops, **ArtCore has provided...**

3,150 hours
of structured Professional Development
to

70 teachers

5 ArtCore Weavers have provided...

3,600 hours

of modeling and collaboration, developing

24 modules
grounded in arts integration

After a year of engagement with ArtCore...

100% of teachers
report **improved relational trust** among colleagues

82% of teachers
rated workshops and trainings as **highly effective**

89% of teachers
believe that ArtCore **increases student motivation and engagement**

According to classroom observation, teachers increased...
* *The frequency of creative teaching strategies*
* *The opportunities for student metacognition*
* *The opportunities to learn and be assessed through the arts*

"ArtCore reached kids that ordinarily aren't reached."

"I really saw the habits of mind philosophy in the students. I saw this growth."

ArtCore teachers, 2016

In the past two years, more than

1,100 students

have recieved a total of more than
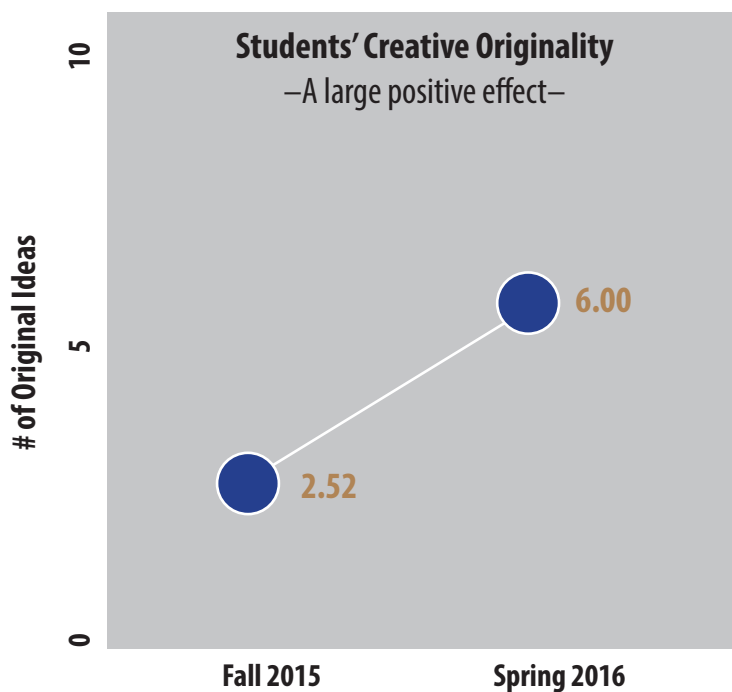
35,000 hours

of arts integrated learning

"ArtCore is the sun coming out on a cloudy day."
-ArtCore student, 2017

Students' Creative Originality
—A large positive effect—

# of Original Ideas

6.00

2.52

Fall 2015   **Spring 2016**

Based on student responses to divergent thinking items, on average, students produced more than twice as many novel and meaningful ideas.
Example prompt: How many uses can you think of for a shoelace?

Compared to non-ArtCore observations, observations of ArtCore learning found a very large effect on the demonstration of students'
- *self awareness and reflection in learning*
- *use of imagination to cultivate ideas*
- *creative risk-taking and tolerance for ambiguity*
- *hands on experimentation with ideas*

Compared to proficiency rates prior to ArtCore, the number of students participating in ArtCore that reached proficiency after the first year increased...

12 %

in **English Language Arts** skills

11 %

in **Mathematics** skills

After the first year of arts integration, other student- level effects include...

24%

improvement in **growth mindset**

11 %

improvement in **creative self-belief**

13 %

improvement in **persistence** in learning

BRING ARTCORE TO YOUR SCHOOL

Current Arts Integration modules incorporate:

- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Philosophy
- Science
- Engineering
- Literature
- Writing
- Computer skills
- Geography
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Music
- Studio Habits of Mind
- Growth Mindset
  ...and more!

Professional Development Services

- 90-minute or 3-hr workshops on a range of arts integration strategies and curriculum design
- Full-day or multi-day customized whole-school workshops to support school-wide practices
- Week-long immersive institutes

School (re)Design

Consulting for the development of a new school design or strategic redesign and improvement efforts

Program Evaluation

Rigorous and flexible research and evaluation consulting to measure the impact of the arts integration and project-based learning on student achievement, creativity, motivation and engagement in school

Integration Specialist Immersion

- Work long-term with an ArtCore Integration Specialist and consultants from the ArtCore team
- Develop a comprehensive community of practice around ArtCore arts integration strategies
- Reinvigorate creative school culture through the arts

Coming soon!
Personalized virtual professional development opportunities
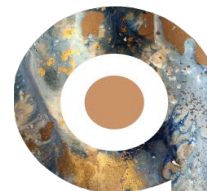ArtCore integration microcredentialing

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