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FAe
Fine Arts eCademy



"Imagination is the source of all human achievement." - **Sir Ken Robinson**

FAe -- The Fine Arts eCademy @ Navigate

As a K-8 blended learning fine arts program, students learn through the arts at school and through a personalized learning program at home. The arts provide a foundation for our school's culture and learning philosophy. They foster the cognitive, social, personal and emotional development of the learner. Students work at home to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through a program tailored to address each child's unique qualities.

We are:

- A blended learning fine arts program
- A shared learning community at Tsolum Campus three days a week
- Organized around multi-age grade groupings
- Engaged in daily artistic activities including visual art, music, drama, dance, and literary and digital art
- Individual learners at home two days a week, guided by personalized learning programs co-developed by the child, teacher and parents
- Students focusing on literacy and math while at home, driven by our specific needs and abilities
- A dedicated team of teachers who believes in the power of collaboration
- Creative, caring, innovative and inspired educators

You are:

- Enthusiastic about exploring the arts
- Interested in trying new things
- Wanting to learn with others
- Able to embrace mistakes
- Willing to be a self-motivated and disciplined learner
- A creative and critical thinker
- Compassionate, thoughtful and inclusive
- Responsible for yourself as a learner and community member
- Respectful of yourself and others



"Every star is a seed of light planted in the dark. Imagine lines and growing vines connecting every spark." - **Corwin Fox**

Highlights of the FAe Program

- Common annual theme for all learners
- Four learning cycles, each culminating in a celebration of learning
- Multi-age grade groupings (Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8)
- Rich community connections and artist-in-residence program
- Weekly K-8 spark electives
- Communication through weekly blogs, ePortfolios and Student Learning Plans
- Exploration Week three times per year
- Spark Meetings four times per year

We expect **parents** will:

- Provide a successful learning environment in the home, including internet access and technology
- Collaborate with the teacher in developing and updating your child's Learning Plan and My Site e-Portfolio
- Supervise and motivate your child as they grow and learn at home
- Assist your child in providing evidence of progress

Together we will:

- Celebrate our achievements at each cycle's Celebration of Learning
- Update and maintain your child's ePortfolio
- Use Spark Meetings to share insights into students' learning, celebrate student progress and discuss next steps in each student's personalized learning plan
- Support exceptional arts-inspired learning opportunities that occasionally occur outside of the regular schedule and within the community



Blended Learning at FAe

Our blended learning structure allows students to participate in both shared and personalized learning experiences. Shared learning occurs at the Tsolum campus in community and through the arts. To support their personalized learning, each child's Student Learning Plan is unique and individualized, and allows for flexibility in path, pace, time and space. Students are able to learn using the resources that work for them, at the speed they need to, at a time when they can most effectively think and in an environment that supports their focus.

Arts-based Learning

During the shared learning days at FAe, students learn in the arts, about the arts and through the arts.

- We believe the arts motivate and inspire students
- We believe the arts open pathways for innovation and invention
- We believe that the arts are accessible to all learners and foster respect for individual, cultural and aesthetic diversity
- We believe children who express themselves through the arts develop the ability to take risks and make connections
- We believe an arts-engaged education helps children to develop confidence and to practice critical and creative thinking
- We believe an arts-engaged education fosters an understanding of self and 'self in community' thus allowing for an opportunity to deepen a sense of connection to the world

Arts exploration at FAe may include: theatre performance, choral music, instrumental music, multimedia arts, creative writing, composition, improvisation, visual art, dance, drawing, digital art, sculpture, painting, pottery and drama.

Spark-based Learning

At FAe, students are not seen as vessels to be filled, but fires to be lit. When developing a personalized learning plan, learners will be asked questions such as: What gives you joy and energy? When does life feel rich and full with purpose and hope? What unique gifts do you possess that make the world a better place?

- Sparks refer to a child's intrinsic interests, talents and passions that motivate learning, growth and community contribution
- Research indicates that people who know and nurture their sparks are more fully engaged in school and have other positive life outcomes
- FAe's flexible blended educational model integrates students' sparks into the curriculum

The Circle of Courage

One of the underlying foundations for the culture at FAe is the Circle of Courage. It is a framework developed by Larry Brendtro, Martin Brokenleg and Steve Van Bockern for connecting with and supporting students in achieving success in school and in life. The model integrates a balance of wisdom drawn from Native American philosophies and Western psychology, and is based on four universal growth needs of all children: belonging, mastery, independence and generosity.

The Spirit of Belonging: *The universal longing for human bonds is cultivated by relationships of trust so that the child can say: "I am loved."*

At FAe, students are part of many groups, from classroom pods, to K-8 spark electives, to our larger community coming together for showcases and other shared learning experiences. Teachers connect with and get to know all students, from saying 'good morning' to developing mentoring opportunities between classrooms. From our school-wide theme to collaborative art projects to our school garden, students understand they are part of the FAe community.

The Spirit of Mastery: *The inborn thirst for learning is cultivated; by learning to cope with the world, the child can say: "I can succeed."*

Learning at FAe is a combination of shared experiences and individualized programs. Teachers, parents and students work together to create a personal learning plan for each child. Many resources support this work, both online programs and integrated activities. Beyond the teacher, everyone has a voice in developing this path and moving learning forwards toward mastery.

The Spirit of Independence: *Free will is cultivated by responsibility so that the child can say: "I have the power to make decisions."*

Students at FAe have voice and choice in many aspects of their learning. From their individual learning plans to inquiry-based spark projects to participating in Exploration Week workshops, children are given the framework to support their growth as learners. Strong relationships among all members of our community provide the space for students to direct their learning and achieve success.

The Spirit of Generosity: *Character is cultivated by concern for others so that the child can say: "I have a purpose for my life."*

Connection is at the heart of FAe. By experiencing generosity, we learn that we all have gifts to give to support others and make the world a better place. There are many ways that students realize they can help others: collaborating on large art pieces, sharing songs and dances with parents, mentoring younger learners, fundraising for schools in Mexico, creating art installations in local galleries, and performing with community choirs. These are just a few examples of how the FAe community collectively reaches out to the world at large and students develop their spirit of generosity.

“Arts can transform lives. They give us the power to question, to confront, to explore and to challenge how we think about the world.” - **Lucy Liu**





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