

## A+ Essentials™: A Set of Commitments

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Arts</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools the arts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>taught daily</b></li> <li>*<b>inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual art and writing</b></li> <li>*<b>integrated</b></li> <li>*<b>valued as essential to learning</b></li> <li>*<b>included in planning</b></li> <li>*<b>practiced</b></li> <li>*<b>a part of personal experience</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Curriculum</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>mapping that reflects alignment</b></li> <li>*<b>thematic webbing</b></li> <li>*<b>development of essential questions</b></li> <li>*<b>creation and use of interdisciplinary thematic units</b></li> <li>*<b>cross-curricular integration</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Experiential Learning</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools experiential learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>is grounded in arts-based instruction</b></li> <li>*<b>is a creative process</b></li> <li>*<b>acknowledges entry points</b></li> <li>*<b>includes differentiated instruction</b></li> <li>*<b>provides multi-faceted assessment opportunities</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Multiple Learning Pathways</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools multiple learning pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>used within planning &amp; assessment</b></li> <li>*<b>understood by students and parents</b></li> <li>*<b>studied, and new research is explored by teachers</b></li> <li>*<b>creating balanced learning opportunities</b></li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Enriched Assessment</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools enriched assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>is on-going</b></li> <li>*<b>is designed for learning</b></li> <li>*<b>is used as documentation</b></li> <li>*<b>is a reflective practice</b></li> <li>*<b>helps meet school system requirements</b></li> <li>*<b>is used to self -assess by teachers and students</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>is intentional</b></li> <li>*<b>occurs within &amp; outside of school</b></li> <li>*<b>occurs during planning time: classroom teachers with arts teachers</b></li> <li>*<b>occurs with teachers, students, families, the community, &amp; local businesses</b></li> <li>*<b>includes broad-based leadership</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Infrastructure</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools infrastructure supports the philosophy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>addressing logistics such as schedules that support planning time</b></li> <li>*<b>providing appropriate space for the arts</b></li> <li>*<b>continually developing faculty commitment</b></li> <li>* <b>creating a shared vision</b></li> <li>*<b>providing related professional development</b></li> <li>*<b>continual team building</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Climate</b></p> <p>In A+ Schools climate improves because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*<b>teachers can manage the arts in their classrooms</b></li> <li>*<b>stress is reduced</b></li> <li>*<b>teachers are treated as professionals</b></li> <li>*<b>morale improves</b></li> <li>*<b>excitement about the program grows</b></li> <li>*<b>A+ whole school reform is invigorating</b></li> </ul>