



Nootka Fine Arts Program

Parent Information Sheet

About Nootka Elementary School:

- Total population approx. 410 students.
- We are one school with three programs. We are a cohesive community.
 - The Fine Arts Program consists of about 40% of the school population.
 - The Classic Program consists of about 56% of school population.
 - The District ELSP Program consists of about 4% of the school population.
- “We Care” School Code of Conduct is an integral part of daily school culture. High expectations for Social Responsibility for our entire community, including all students, staff, and parents.

About the Fine Arts Program:

- The Fine Arts Program is a VSB choice program.
- It is a program for students who demonstrate ability in and passion for all aspects of Fine Arts.
- Approximately 30% of the curriculum is dedicated to the 4 Fine Arts domains: Drama, Music, Visual Arts, and Dance. The balance of the curriculum is condensed into the remaining 70% of the week.
- Classic program typically allocates approximately 20% of the curriculum to Fine Arts Education.
- Performances in front of audiences and the display of creative works are important aspects of this program; active participation in all domains is **key**.
- The program emphasizes the arts and develops students’ skills in collaboration, problem solving, and communication.

About the Staff:

- Teaching qualifications, as well as education and/or experience in one or more of the Fine Arts domains. Our teachers are a highly dedicated and hard-working team.
- Platooning allows students to receive Fine Arts instruction from teachers with domain-specific specializations.
- The staff collaborate with one another at every available opportunity. Classic Program staff and Fine Arts Program staff collaborate regularly - assemblies, electives, winter concert, buddy classes, field trips, student leadership, etc.

About the Students:

- Fine Arts students demonstrate passion for the Fine Arts and enjoy actively participating in and engaging in Fine Arts-focused learning and activities.
- This program is ideally suited for students who:
 - enjoy collaborating and creating with others
 - are self-motivated or have an open-mindset
 - are naturally curious
 - are open to new ideas and experiences

FAQ's:

How does one apply for the Nootka Fine Arts Program?

For incoming Kindergarten students: You must first register at your catchment school. Once register at catchment, apply online for your choice program (<https://kchoice.vsb.bc.ca/>) between January 10th and February 3rd at 4:00 pm. You will hear back either way by the end of February.

For Grade 1-7 students: Apply at the school November 2021 - January 31, 2022. Applicants will be put on a waitlist. Spots awarded by lottery draw. Remaining names will remain on the waitlist until June 30, 2023. Gr 1-7 placements will be determined after spring break. Parents contacted only if a spot becomes available.

What about Grandfathering?

K sibling still must apply online before deadline! Sibling priority only applies to Kindergarten Choice Program applicants with a sibling that will be concurrently attending. If the sibling will be leaving the catchment school for Grade 8, sibling priority does NOT apply. Sibling Priority does NOT apply to Out-of-District Applicants

Does the Nootka Fine Arts Program follow the BC Curriculum?

Yes. The Fine Arts Program follows the BC Curriculum, augmented with additional Fine Arts instruction and the Nootka staff is a part of the Vancouver School Board Communicating Student Learning Inquiry Project.

Can my child with Special Needs apply for the Fine Arts Program?

Yes! We welcome all learners. We always want to ensure that each student is placed in the most suitable environment that addresses their unique needs in order to optimize their efficacy and learning potential. If you would like further information so that you can determine whether the Fine Arts Program is the right choice for your child, please feel free to contact the school Principal.

Will Learning Support be offered for my child if he or she encounters challenges?

Learning (Resource) support is available to students who require support in any subject area. Learning support is also offered to English Language Learners (ELL) who require extra help. Learning Support is offered by Resource Teachers and usually takes the form of pull-out groups and/or in-class support.

Are there combined ("split") classes in the Fine Arts Program?

Yes, there are combined classes in the Fine Arts Program.

How does the Fine Arts Waitlist work?

Students who apply for the Fine Arts Program but who are not selected in the lottery are placed on a waitlist that is kept here at the school. The waitlist is confidential. Each student's place on the waitlist is not disclosed to individuals other than school staff. If a spot becomes available, the parents are contacted by the school and offered a placement. Parents have 24 hours to accept the placement. If, after 24 hours, the school does not receive a response, the school proceeds to the next student on the waitlist. The waitlist is destroyed at the end of the school year (on June 30, 2023). Names are not carried forward from the old waitlist onto the new waitlist.

*If your child is on the waitlist, please wait for a call from us. As we have a substantial waitlist, we ask that parents please refrain from calling the school to check on their child's waitlist status.

Can my child transfer out of the Fine Arts Program in the future?

A child can transfer out at any time and return to their catchment school, dependent upon space at that school. Alternatively, outside-of-catchment students may apply to attend Nootka's Classic Program as a Cross-Boundary student. If Nootka is your child's catchment school, your child can transfer into the Classic Program here at Nootka, if there is space at the grade level in the program. If you would like to consider transferring your child out of the Fine Arts Program, please discuss with the school.