



ADDENDUM TO THE 2025 ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING REPORT HIGHLIGHTING FINE ARTS IN COAST MOUNTAINS SCHOOL DISTRICT 82

The Board of Education for Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD) recognizes the vital role of Fine Arts—music, band, drama, dance, and visual arts—in student success. Fine Arts programming not only builds creativity and confidence but also strengthens literacy, cultural expression, and belonging.

District Actions and Examples

Music & Band: Students participate in elementary music and secondary band programs at schools such as Cassie Hall Elementary School, Thornhill Elementary School, Suwilaawks Community School, Skeena Middle School and Caledonia Secondary School. These programs develop musical literacy, collaboration, and confidence, with performances at school concerts and community events.

Drama & Musicals: School productions at Hazelton Secondary School, Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School and Caledonia Secondary School include plays and musicals that engage students in script analysis, rehearsal, and storytelling. These experiences deepen literacy and teamwork while building public-speaking skills.

Visual Arts & Indigenous Expression: Student artwork is displayed in schools and community spaces across the district, including Parkside Secondary School's community art showcases and Skeena Middle School's student exhibitions. Indigenous expression is highlighted through projects such as Nisga'a and Ts'msyen designs at Hobiye celebrations, murals at Caledonia Secondary School, Hazelton Secondary School and New Hazelton Elementary School, and cedar weaving shared during National Indigenous Peoples Day events.

Dance & Cultural Performance: Students participate in dance as part of physical education, assemblies, and traditional Indigenous performances. Examples include Haisla dance at Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School and Gitxsan dance at Hazelton Secondary School, and student-led cultural performances at district-wide feasts and community gatherings.

After School Arts & Sports Initiative (ASAI): CMSD receives over \$100,000 annually for the ASAI program, which provides after-school opportunities in sports and arts. The majority of this funding supports Fine Arts, with programs in visual arts, drama, and music offered across schools in the district. ASAI has significantly expanded access for students to explore creativity, build skills, and connect with their peers in safe and supportive environments.

Impact on Student Learning

Fine Arts programs:

- Enhance literacy by embedding reading, writing, and oral language into artistic processes.
- Provide opportunities for Indigenous students to express culture, language, and tradition through multiple art forms.
- Foster belonging and inclusive participation for students with diverse abilities.

Recommendation to the Ministry

The Board respectfully recommends that Fine Arts measures be explicitly considered in future ESL reporting requirements. Recognizing Fine Arts alongside literacy and numeracy will ensure a more holistic picture of student achievement and reflect the diverse pathways through which learners develop the skills, creativity, and confidence needed for their futures.