

## Benefits Abound through the Arts for NMSD

Music, dance, drama, visual and material art are essential to the education of our children and to the curriculum of North Mason Schools. Were you aware that a strong relationship exists between Arts Education and increased attention-span and learning capacity? This important connection has been discovered and documented by contemporary neuroscience through charting information pathways in our brains.

Don Connell, music teacher at Belfair Elementary, echoed this research and probably spoke for many of his colleagues in summarizing his philosophy of Arts Education. “I encourage the child’s sense of play to bring out the child’s desire to learn.”

Throughout NMSD, we offer a variety of Arts Classes to advance the learning potential of all of our students.

**Sand Hill** - Musical education offered in all grades. Additional opportunities include Music Club, Choir, drawing & Visual Art. Drama is taught all year. Evening concerts at all grade levels are performed several times each year.

**Belfair Elementary** - Musical education offered in all grades. Classes include singing, chanting, dancing, moving, and playing percussion instruments. Barred instruments are used to teach musical concepts (marimba, xylophone, metallophones, glockenspiels, bass bars). Evening concerts at all grade levels are performed several times each year. Choir & Mallet Masters classes meet after school. Drama is taught all year.

**Hawkins Middle School** – Music offerings include Choir and Marching Band (all grades). After school opportunities available for kids to learn guitar, piano, drums. 6<sup>th</sup> Period Arts electives: Pen & ink, water color, creative writing, cartoon drawing, garden art (makes art for atrium off the library), quilt making.

**North Mason High School** - NMHS Jazz Band (including yearly professional guest performer), Marching Band, Mallet Masters, Drama, Ceramics, Dance and Vocal group. See “The Sound of Music” at the new Toni M Smith Auditorium on May 13, 14, 15 and 19, 20, 21 @ 7pm. Join in the Special Sing-Along Matinee on Saturday, May 14 @ 2pm – includes Strudel with Sister Maria @ 1pm! For more information call 360-277-2197.

Visit [northmasonschoools.org](http://northmasonschoools.org) for more info on ALL of NMSD’s music programs!

John Campbell  
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