



A+ Essentials: A Set of Commitments TM

<p style="text-align: center;">Arts</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools the arts are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusive of drama, dance, music, visual arts and creative writing • included in curriculum design • integrated within 'academic' content areas • taught daily • valued as essential to learning and personal experiences • part of the whole school's identity 	<p style="text-align: center;">Curriculum</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools curriculum is addressed through the use of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • curriculum mapping by all teachers and specialists • thematic webbing reflecting both horizontal and vertical alignment • essential questions • teacher created interdisciplinary thematic units • cross-curricular and two-way integration 	<p style="text-align: center;">Multiple Intelligences</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools MI theory:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is used daily within planning & assessment • is understood by administration, teachers, students & parents • is studied and implemented... with a continued emphasis to explore new research • creates balanced learning opportunities for students 	<p style="text-align: center;">Enriched Assessment</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools Enriched Assessment is:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • designed for learning • inclusive of arts and MI • on-going and integrated • experiential and collaborative • a reflective practice • used to help meet school system requirements • used as a self-assessment tool by teachers & students
<p style="text-align: center;">Experiential Learning</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools Experiential Learning:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is grounded in arts-based instruction • is a creative process • acknowledges a range and variety of entry points • includes differentiated instruction • provides multi-faceted assessment opportunities 	<p style="text-align: center;">Collaboration</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools collaboration:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is intentional and valued • is given priority by providing time for classroom and special area teachers to plan together • occurs throughout the day • includes teachers, students, families, & local community • includes broad-based leadership 	<p style="text-align: center;">Climate</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools climate improves because:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teachers grow professionally • morale improves • stress is reduced • teachers better manage the arts in their classrooms • teaching and learning through arts and MI is fun • A+ whole school reform is exciting 	<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure</p> <p><i>In A+ Schools infrastructure supports the philosophy by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing logistics of daily school routines • providing appropriate space for the arts • continually developing faculty commitment • creating a shared vision • providing relevant professional development • supporting team building