



Date: Friday, August 4, 2023

To: District Administrators, Curriculum and Instruction Directors, Principals

From: Chris Gleason, Arts and Creativity Education Consultant
2017 Wisconsin Teacher of the Year
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Subject: Arts Contact Request, Arts & Creativity Newsletter, and Fall Conference Attendance

Thank you for your continued support of the arts and creativity in Wisconsin. I have three important items for you as you prepare for the upcoming school year:

Item 1 - Please email me (christopher.gleason@dpi.wi.gov) the name and school email address of one of your arts staff (band, choir, orchestra visual art, media art, or dance) who can act as an arts contact person. At times I am made aware of art exhibits, guest musicians, special performances, and/or regional professional development opportunities for your area. Having an arts contact person would make sharing that information even more efficient.

Item 2 - Last January I started a monthly Arts and Creativity Newsletter containing updates, announcements, arts news, grant opportunities, teaching strategies, research, advocacy, and professional development information. To receive this monthly newsletter in your inbox, simply send an email with no message to subscribe-wiartsed@lists.dpi.wi.gov Please share this free resource with your arts staff.

Item 3 - We are fortunate in Wisconsin to have a number of outstanding arts organizations that are dedicated to supporting the work of your arts educators. Each year these organizations go above and beyond to offer timely professional development, mentoring, collaboration, and inspiration. Below is a list of the statewide arts conferences to consider for your fine arts staff. The time and money invested in supporting your arts teachers' attendance will surely benefit your students and schools.

- [Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Education Conference](#) - UW-Green Bay, September 22, 2023
- [Wisconsin Dance Council Conference](#) - Madison, October 21, 2023
- [Wisconsin Art Education Association Conference](#) - WI Rapids, October 26-27, 2023
- [Wisconsin State Music Conference](#) - Madison, October 25-28, 2023

These annual gatherings are the largest professional development opportunities scheduled statewide for educators engaged with the arts in learning. Conference opportunities often include the sharing of effective arts instructional strategies and

assessment methods, in-depth standards reviews, the latest research, integration of technology, and inclusive arts practices.

I am asking for your encouragement and support of your art educators in building their knowledge and professional skills by providing release time for their participation in a statewide conference within their content area. Thank you for your partnership in fostering a comprehensive education for our children and for supporting the continual building of professional capacity in our educators.

Please allow me to be a resource to you and your arts educators through professional development, classroom visits, or the updated [DPI Fine Arts Website](#). Thank you for your time and have a great school year!