The origin of assess is the Latin term, *assidēre*, which means to sit by as an assistant judge. This suggests our role as a partner in our students’ education. I’ve witnessed incredible learning partnerships in fine arts classrooms across Wisconsin. These have included rehearsals and art studio time where assessment is used to inform learners with on the spot specific feedback to master skills. Students and educators work together, asking thoughtful questions, offering ideas, and sharing applications to enhance the journey in the art form. These learning opportunities often culminate into a student performance or exhibit which offers additional feedback from peers, parents, and others. These examples highlight a partnership and distinguish two specific purposes of assessment: a tool for learning, as well as a tool of learning. Assessment “For” means it can be an integral part of instruction and inform the learners and teacher of next steps; Assessment “Of” provides a snapshot of the learning accomplished at the end of a task or period of time. In our work to support students in their mastery of the arts, we have a multitude of assessment options. Examples of both assessment activities and tools to collect this evidence are provided on page 3. Prior to our use of these options, let’s consider five key points presented by *Making Classroom Assessment Work* author, Dr. Anne Davies. (Video) They include:

1. Learners and educators having a shared understanding of how learning happens;
2. Student involvement in self-assessments and in receiving specific, descriptive feedback about the learning during instruction;
3. Learners having the opportunity to collect, organize, and communicate evidence;
4. A flexible learning environment that supports an ongoing collection of evidence; and
5. A safe learning environment that supports risk taking, focused goal setting, and reflective learning.

Please continue to investigate and incorporate these assessment opportunities in your classrooms. Thank you for your work in arts education.

- Julie

**“Kudos”**

Congratulations to the members of the Cambridge High School Show Choir for their performance at the Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Schools, Libraries, and Communities Award Event. Students are under the direction of Kathryn Czechowicz.

Congratulations to the participants of the Milton Choralation Invitation 2014. The event was hosted by Milton High School, under the direction of HS Choral Director, Ms. Wiczer. Participating choirs were from Wisconsin and Illinois high schools. Competition Results.

The Sparta Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the Middle School in Sparta. Second grade students from Lawrence-Lawson Elementary School provided table centerpieces made in art class. The centerpieces were 3-D buildings constructed using cardboard, glue, tape, and paper. Students looked at architecture from around the world and also read the book, "Iggy Peck, Architect" as inspiration for their designs. Students worked collaboratively to make their buildings.

Congratulations to Todd Elementary School in Beloit who is one of 16 grant winners of the KRIS Wine “Art of Education” contest. Todd Elementary came in 6th place resulting in $2000 to be used for funding an arts program.

Visit the **Kudos** site to submit your news
Creativity Education

What creative practices have you been using within your classroom to support student learning? Share by submitting ideas within the online site - Creative Classrooms for future issue consideration. Check the resources below to learn more about creativity in education.

- Creativity Education and Research - Scoop.it page
- DPI Creativity Education website
- WIFACE diigo site

Additional professional development options, including an online Fine Arts Professional Development site are available. Please contact Julie Palkowski if your district is interested in discussing options. Thank you for your patience as these options are being developed.

DISCIPLINARY LITERACY ARTS SESSIONS

Disciplinary Literacy Arts Sessions

This resource provides DL Arts examples and information.

Tip Sheet

DL Arts Session
- WCME Center 8/14/14 AM session, Details TBA

Additional professional development options, including an online Fine Arts Professional Development site are available. Please contact Julie Palkowski if your district is interested in discussing options. Thank you for your patience as these options are being developed.

WI Examples of DL in the Arts

Here are a few examples of how Wisconsin fine arts educators are using Disciplinary Literacy (DL) Tools in the Arts. Click on the link or picture. Please share additional resources that you find helpful in your work.

Visit past newsletter issues 2012-13 #7 & 8 to learn more about DL and “Informational Text.”

WORDS, #, Images, Auditory Cues
Assessment

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has several resources focused on assessment. Review the types and uses of assessment tools provided. Consider how these may enhance student learning in the arts. Use multiple measures versus a single assessment tool in order to gain a more comprehensive view of the student’s strengths and weaknesses. Feedback before, during, and after the instruction has occurred offers students data to inform their learning and path. Before choosing assessment activities, consider the following questions from the WI DPI Planning Curriculum in Art and Design:

- Are the proposed learning outcomes clear? Are they important? Relevant?
- What understandings and thinking skills are required in order to achieve the desired outcome? Are they appropriately challenging?
- Will this learning project provide ample opportunities for students to try out solutions, analyze and reflect on the result, and try again?

These are just a few questions to consider in your work to support student learning in the arts. Continue to navigate through the resources below and to share any you have found about assessment ideas in the arts. Thank you for your work in arts education.

Wisconsin Balanced Assessment

“A balanced assessment framework uses a variety of tools to address diverse aspects of learning to gather the best possible ‘picture’ of student learning.”

Source
Click on Balanced Assessment System and consider what arts classroom evidence you might collect for assessment activities.

Assessment Tools

This is a sample of tools you may consider to collect evidence of student skills and knowledge in the arts. Glossary, Pinterest Boards:

- Bell Ringers / Exit Tickets, Art, Music
- Checklists
- Constructed/Unconstructed Responses
- Learning Profiles
- Observational checklists
- Performance skill demonstration
- Portfolio of work
- Processfolio
- Rating scales, rubrics
- Student critiques of self/others
- Question collection
- Verbal sharing of skills using arts vocabulary and technique descriptions

“When the cook tastes the soup, that’s formative; when the guests taste the soup, that’s summative.”


Assessment Activities

Here are several examples of assessment activities. Visit these resources and consider how these might work within your arts classroom.

- Self Assessment - article, Video (6 minute video)
- Critiques - article
- Class Discussion - article
- Teacher Feedback - article
- Peer Assessment (5 minute video)
- Portfolio - article
- Group Project - Teacher Channel (5 minute video)
- Formative Examples (5 minute video)

Rick Wormeli - Formative and Summative Assessment

Formative assessment is effective when it contains descriptive feedback offering the learner: the goal, where they are in relation to the goal, and how to close the gap.

Formative Assessment/Evaluation

This 5 minute video shares a breakdown of an assessment study which reviewed data about student learning and formative assessment.

Student Centered Assessment Jeopardy

This 4 minutes video shares formative assessment ideas. Consider playing along with this game show video.
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One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or...
More information is available online at:
- Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness State System Website
- Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness State System Help Desk
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Teachscape Welcome!

Student Learning Objectives (SLO)s
- SLO in the Arts - Professional Development site
- SLO in the Arts Tip Sheet

SLO Arts Intro. Sessions
- Oconomowoc Area 5/7/14, Details
- WCME Center, 8/14/14 PM session, Details TBA

SLO Arts Writing Workshops
- CESA 3, 8/19/14, Details TBA
- WCME Center, 9/13/14, Details TBA

Arts Standards
At this time the current academic standards encouraged are the Wisconsin Academic Standards. There is no timeline of updates for any of the content standards. The DPI Fine Arts website offers links to the Wisconsin Academic Standards for each of the arts areas. These standards can be found online at: Art and Design Education, Dance Education, Music Education, Theatre Education Standards posters: Art and Design, Dance, Music, Theatre.

On the national scene, the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) has scheduled a final public review of the draft PreK-12 voluntary arts standards in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts - February 14, 2014, and close February 28. A draft copy of the revised standards will be available at http://nccas.wikispaces.com. Please visit this site to participate within the review. Press Release

Wisconsin Dance Council offers resources online.

Wisconsin Arts Board news is available online. Check for weekly updates.

The Alliance for Wisconsin Theatre Educators offers resources online.

For more news and art and design events check the WAEA website.

Visit the Wisconsin School Music Association and Center for news and events.

News and highlights for music education across the nation is available at – NAfME.

Also consider having your students participate within the Visual Arts Classic and Youth Art Month.

Plan ahead and consider having your students participate within the Visioneers Design Challenge.

The Kids from Wisconsin! The Kids from Wisconsin is an excellent learning opportunity for anyone interested in gaining a true professional performance and touring experience! The Kids from Wisconsin is a summer music troupe featuring a 20 person singer/dancer troupe and a 13 piece show band. Dates of Commitment are approximately June 7th through the end of August. The KIDS travel throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest, presenting over 60 performances. See more information.

Milwaukee Art Museum Resources - Check this link for lesson plans and information. Thanks to the Terri and Verne Holoubek Family Foundation, individual Wisconsin K–12 teachers who present a valid school ID or pay stub will receive free admission to the Museum.

Crafting Community presented by the UW-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery (February 28 – March 28, 2014), is a juried exhibition of secondary student ceramic artwork derived from community-themed curricula. This unique exhibition explores how making material objects through ceramic processes can nurture investigations, conversations, and complex understandings of community issues and themes.

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Press Release

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Arts Organization News

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Educator Effectiveness
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- Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness State System Help Desk
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Teachscape Welcome!
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction updates are provided online. Highlights recently posted include:

**DPI Site** - latest news and links

**Agenda 2017: Every Child a Graduate, College and Career Ready**

- Student Contests—Art, Photography... (February 2014)
- Raps Reach Special Education Students (October 2013)
- Compassion Art and Writing in La Crosse (October 2013)
- Arts in Education Week (September 2013)
- Arts Planning Grant (August 2013)
- Painting on the Walls in Merrill (July 2013)
- Creative Expression in Bad River (June 2013)
- Art Achievements - Google, Saul Bell Design (May 2013)
- Doodle Art Finalist (May 2013)
- Jazz Inspires, Elevates – Especially in Wisconsin? (April 2013)
- Best Music Communities (April 2013)
- Learning Highlights (March 2013)
- Music and Art Highlighted in March (February 2013)
- Music Visits in Howard-Suamico
- Grant for Puppets in Merrill Music Class; Arts Summit
- Arts and Humanities Month (October 2012)

**Additional Events**

- **Birch Creek Music Performance Center** - Egg Harbor
- **Collaborations: Community and Art, Educators Institute - Kohler Arts Center**. June 23-25, 2014, Registration: cbayles@jmkac.org.
- **Horizons School Matinee Series** - UW-Whitewater
- **Woodson Art Museum**
- **STEAMworks: 10 Quintillion & Counting: The Art & Science of the Insect**, April 5, 2014, UW-La Crosse. Registration: bmeuer@uwlax.edu
- **VSA Wisconsin Events**
- **WAEA Potawatomi Grants** - Application
- **WCME Center Events**
- **Youth Art Month Regional Events**

Contact Julie Palkowski with news for future newsletters.