



**FITCHBURG PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

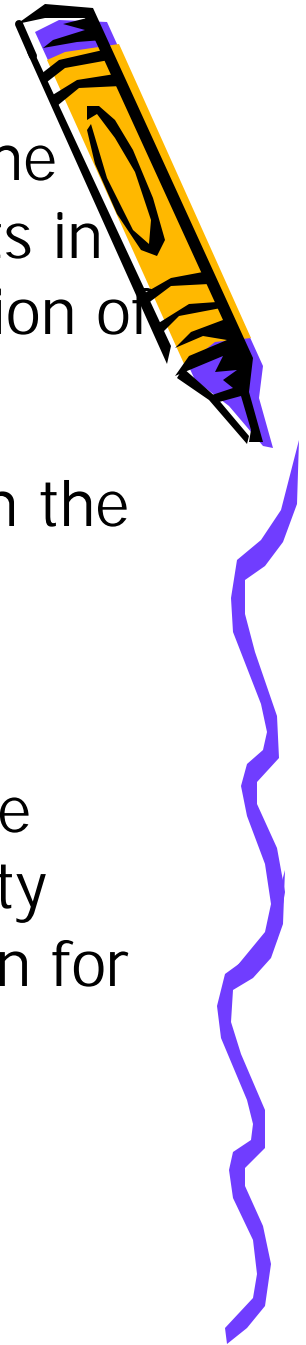
**Community Assessment of
Arts Education in the Schools**

**Arts Audit Survey Results
June 2006**

Survey Results Compiled by: Maxine Lome,
Independent Arts Consultant under the direction of
Jennifer L. Jones, Fitchburg Public Schools Director of Arts

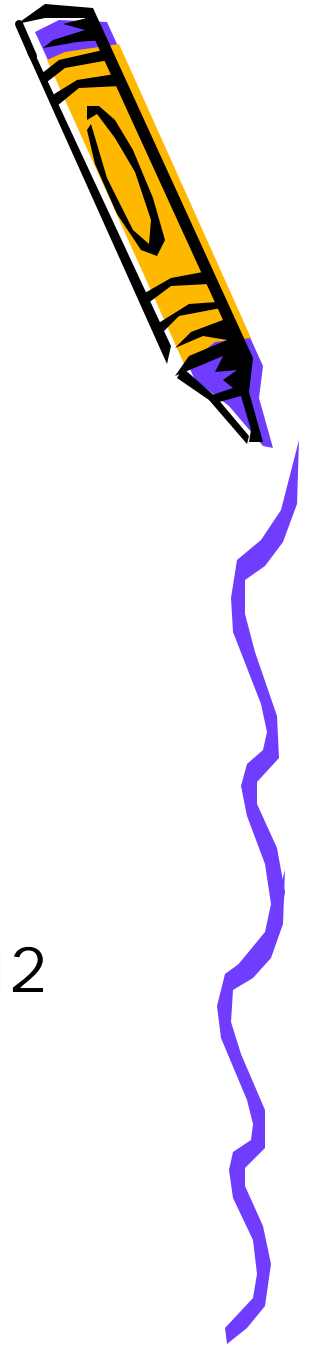
The Fitchburg Public School District was chosen by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as one of four districts in the state to receive a grant to engage in an exploration of our arts programming.

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, through the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network (KCAEEN), developed the *Community Audit for Arts Education: Better Schools, Better Skills, Better Communities* to assist school districts in assessing the status of arts education; and to encourage community partnerships to strengthen and expand arts education for all students.



Arts Surveys Distributed in the Community

- Business and Community Leaders
- Arts and Cultural Organizations
- Fitchburg Public School Administration and School Committee
- Fitchburg Public School Arts Faculty
- Fitchburg Public Schools Faculty
- Fitchburg Public School Parents
- Fitchburg Public School Students grades 5-12
- Community at-large Survey- April 27 Arts Showcase



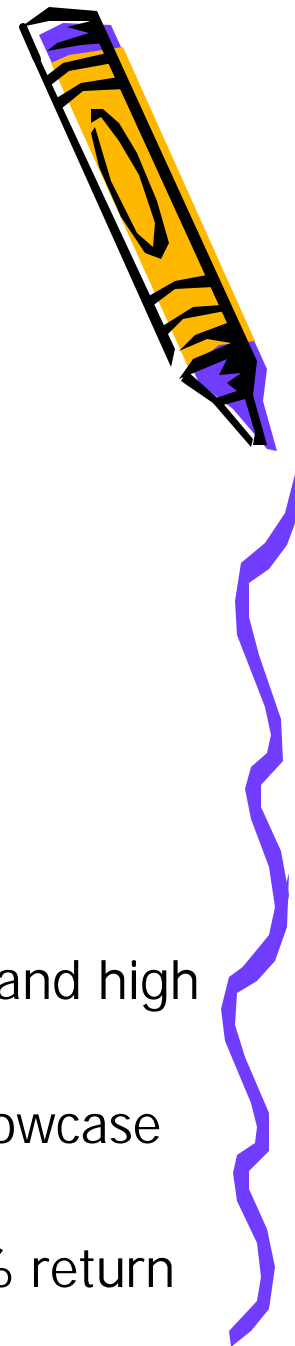
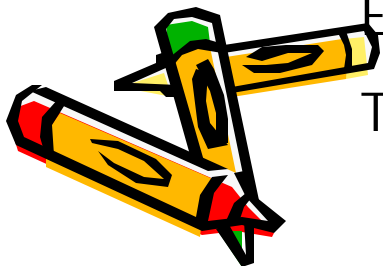
DISTRIBUTION of SURVEYS

Approximately 1955 surveys were distributed:

- 40 Businesses and Community Leaders
- 20 Cultural Organizations
- 47 FPS Administrators and School Committee
- 22 FPS Arts Faculty
- 270 FPS General Faculty
- 300 student surveys 9-12
- 500 student surveys 5-8
- 700 parent surveys (240 elementary, 400 middle and high school)
- 56 Community-At-Large Surveys –District Arts Showcase Event, April 27, 2006

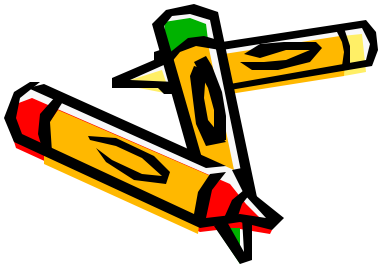
TOTAL: 1955

643 Responses = 33% return

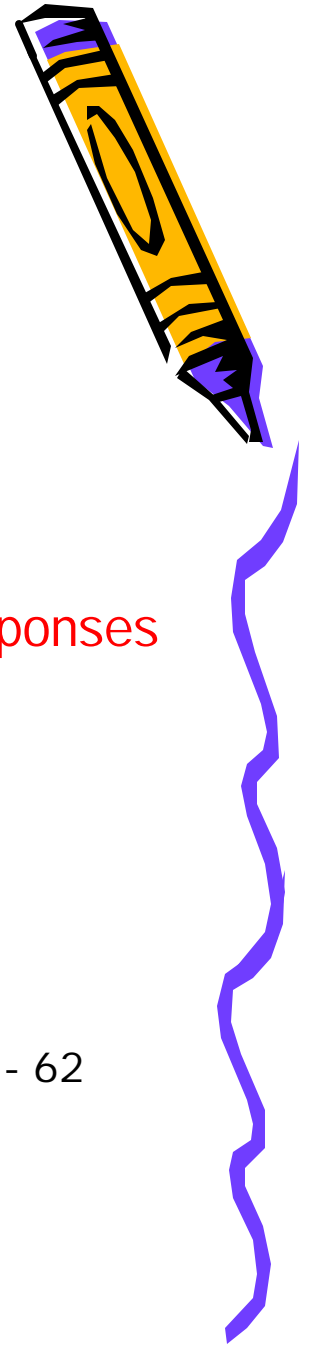


Survey Respondent Groups (random samples)

- Parents – 73 responses
- Business & Community Leaders - 15 responses
- Arts & Cultural Organizations - 6 responses
- FPS School Committee & Administration – 5 responses
- FPS Faculty - 33 responses
- FPS Arts Faculty – 12 responses
- Community At-Large – 56 responses
- FPS Students (Grades 5-12) – 433 responses
 - Academy Middle School - 102
 - Brown Middle School - 78
 - Fitchburg High School - 176
 - Memorial Middle School - 62
 - MPS - 25

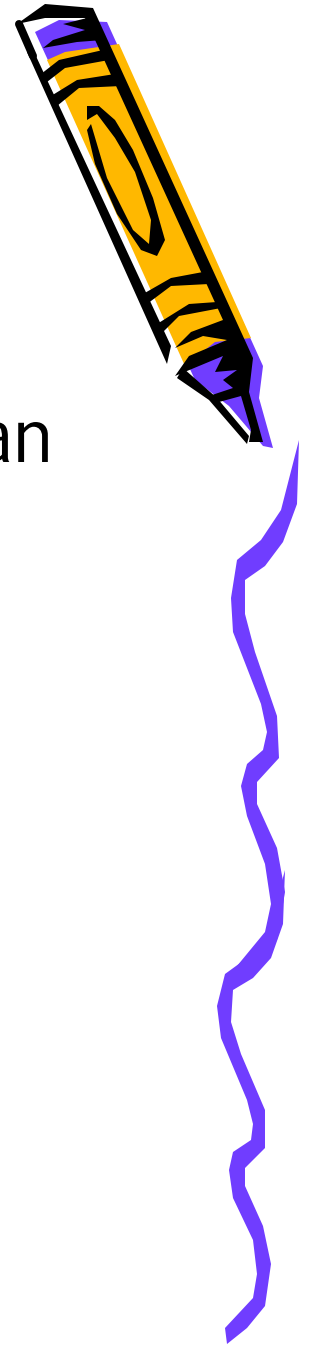
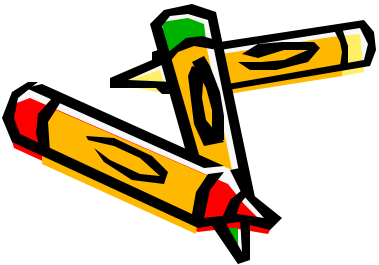


TOTAL SURVEY RETURNS: 643



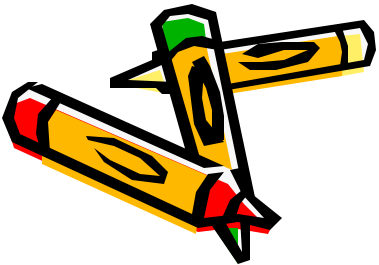
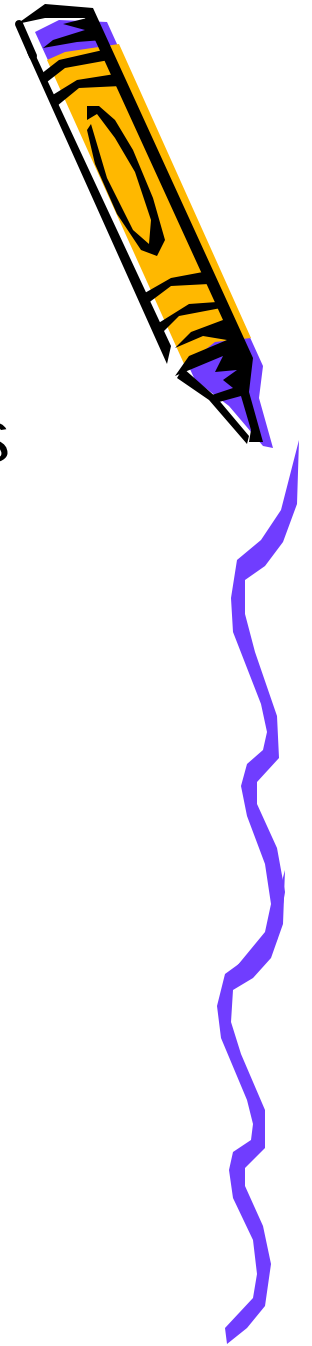
Business & Community Leaders

- Importance of region's reputation as an 'Arts Community'
 - 64% - Extremely Important
 - 29% - Important
 - 07% - Somewhat Important
- Importance of Arts Education
 - 64% - Extremely Important
 - 29% - Important
 - 07% - Somewhat Important



Business & Community Leaders

- FPS' perceived commitment to the Arts
 - 07% - Extremely Committed
 - 36% - Committed
 - 43% Somewhat Committed
 - 14% - No Opinion



Business & Community Leaders

How Business Leaders say the District's commitment to the Arts affects the community

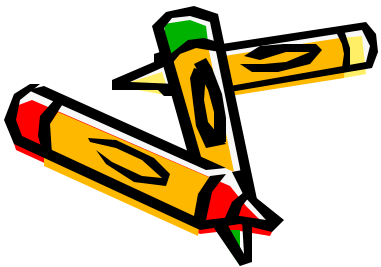
- "Well-rounded students should translate into a well-rounded adult, which provides a stronger pool of qualified employees."
- "I'm not sure it does."
- "The City must present an image of community, vitality, optimism & creativity. There is no better way to convey this message than through an active Arts program."
- "Visibility of the Arts important to show health of community."
- "Good programs in the City could 'lift all boats'."
- "The Arts make people more aware of the quality of their surroundings and lifestyle."
- "Not yet but it will."



Business & Community Leaders

How business community say they can be more actively engaged in enhancing Arts Education in the school district:

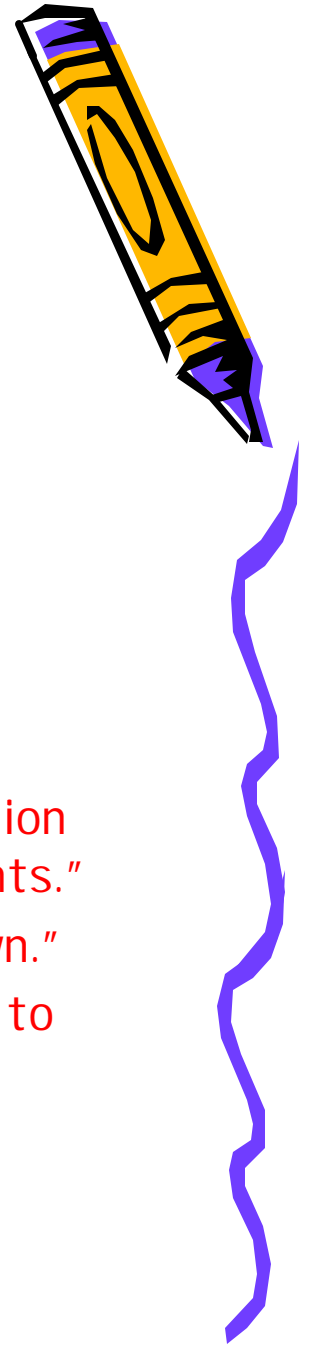
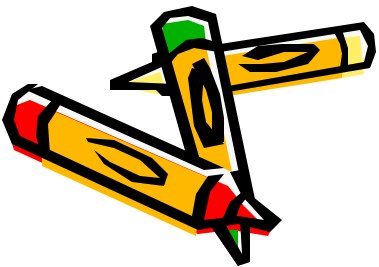
- "By displaying & promoting school artwork/window displays."
- "Donations to local school's art fairs, shows, exhibits, etc."
- "Sponsoring competitions."
- "Publicizing & participating in community events."
- "Contributions to children's creativity."
- Through better collaborative PR efforts. "PR & the Arts go hand-in-hand."
- Through participation, sponsorship, providing display space & attendance at arts events."



Business & Community Leaders

How Business Leaders say they can help:

- "By joining in as a Patron or hosting/sponsoring events."
- "Event sponsorship."
- "Mentoring."
- "[Hosting] Arts shows - exposure to business."
- "[We can] Apply for certain grants to foster Arts Education for either Pre-K, Pre-School or After-School environments."
- Integrating student activities & programs in the downtown."
- "Encouraging the School Committee & Administration not to cut funding."

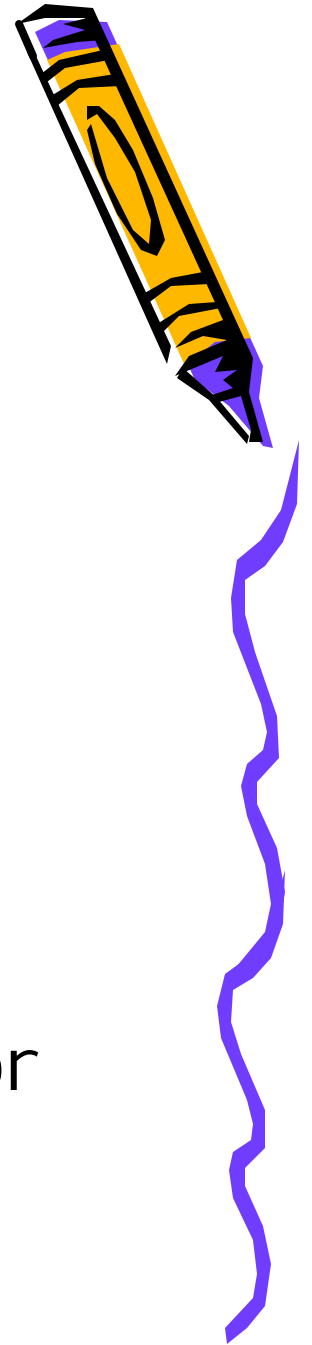
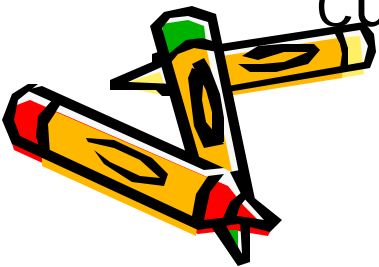


Arts & Cultural Organizations

Participants

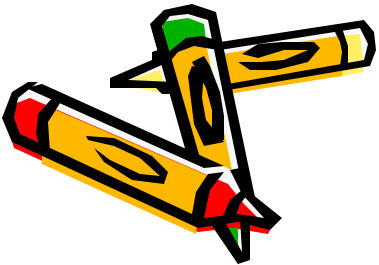
- Fitchburg Art Museum
- FPL Performance Arts
- Fitchburg Access Television (2)
- Thayer Symphony Orchestra
- Fitchburg Cultural Alliance

All participants say they have worked or currently work with FPS



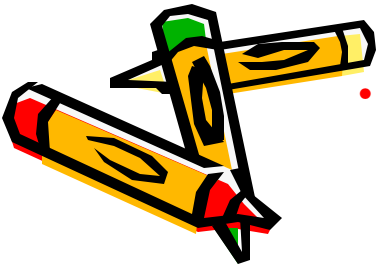
Arts & Cultural Organizations

- All Arts Organizations interviewed feel Arts Programs are 'Extremely Important' to the education process
- How Arts Organizations perceive FPS' commitment to Arts Education
 - 33% - Extremely Important
 - 67% - Important



Arts & Cultural Organizations

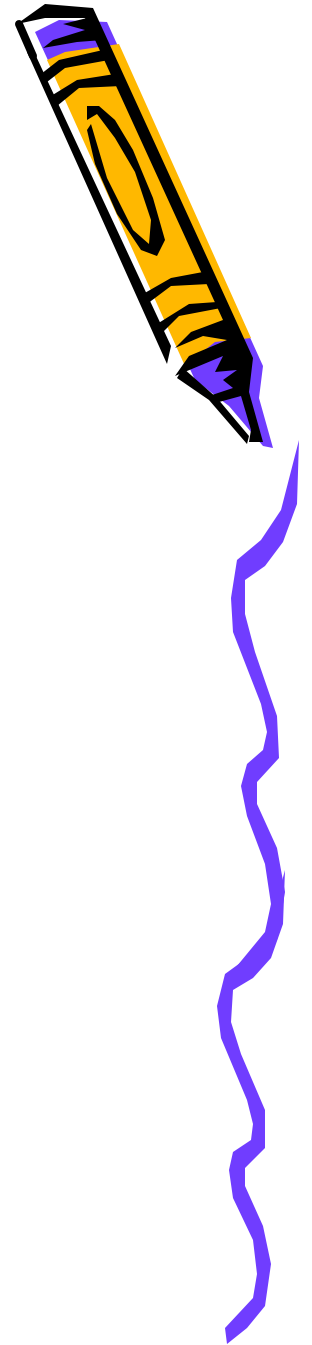
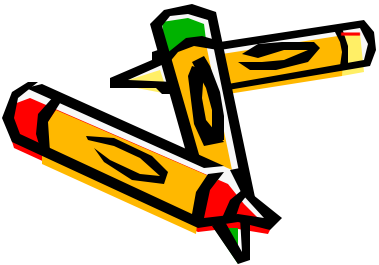
- 76% have attended the Annual District Arts Showcase
- Majority have a more than favorable impression of the facility
- Respondents rate the quality of the production Good-to-Excellent
- Respondents say the Best venues in the community are:
 - Dukakis Center, Weston Auditorium, Fitchburg HS Auditorium
 - Other Excellent venues: Memorial Auditorium, McKay, Fitchburg Public Library



Arts & Cultural Organizations

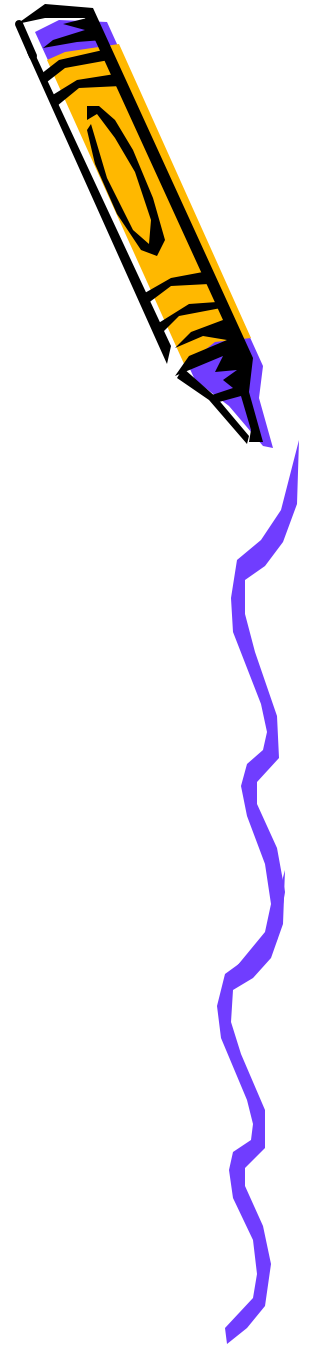
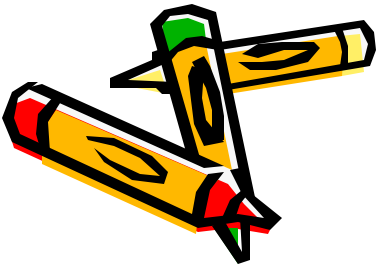
How *they* say they can help:

- Fitchburg Art Museum
 - After-School Program
 - Professional Development for Teachers
 - Mentoring Students
 - Bringing Special Events/Performances to School
- FPL Performing Arts
 - Bringing Special Events/Performances to School
- Fitchburg Cultural Alliance
 - Bringing Special Events/Performances to School
 - Professional Development for Teachers



Arts & Cultural Organizations

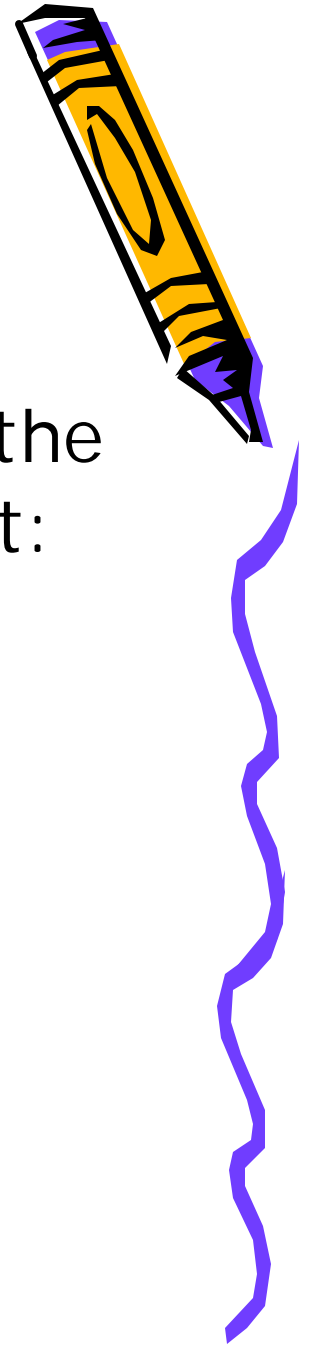
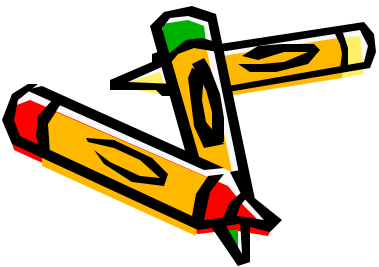
- Fitchburg Access TV
 - Internships
 - Mentoring Students
 - Professional Development for Teachers
 - After-school Programs
- Thayer Symphony Orchestra
 - Internships
 - After-school Programs
 - Professional Development for Teachers
 - Mentoring Students
 - Bringing Special Events/Performances to School



Arts & Cultural Organizations

What Arts Organizations perceive to be the District's Top 3 Areas for Improvement:

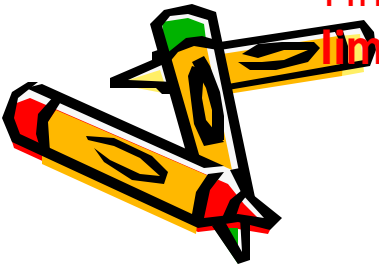
1. Budget/Funding
2. Community Involvement
2. Facilities for Productions/Shows
3. Arts Programming
3. Public Relations



FPS Faculty

The faculty's general perception of the District's commitment to the Arts & its integration into the curriculum:

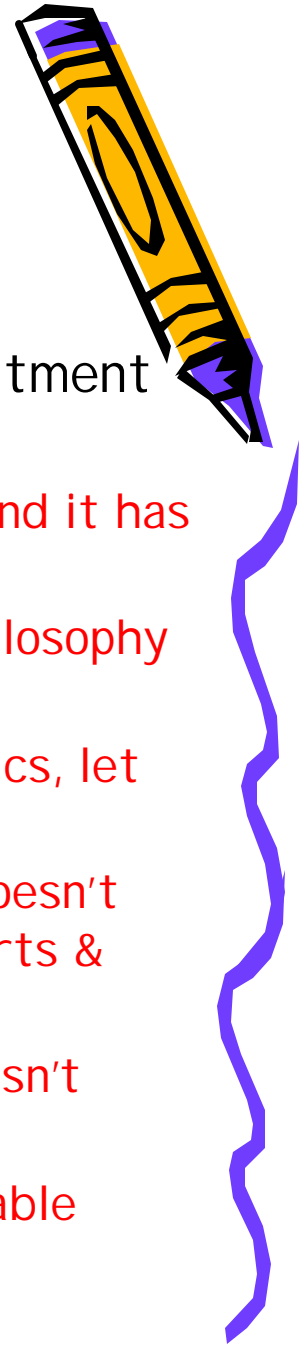
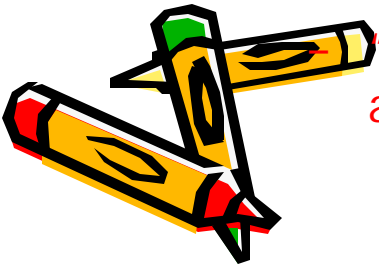
- "I think we do an OK integration of the Arts into the curriculum but I would like to see a better commitment to the quality of art."
- "Mediocre to poor seeing as there aren't adequate supplies for the Arts curriculum at our school."
- "Lack of materials shows there's no follow-through."
- [Integration] 'does not have as much of a commitment on all levels.'
- "More time is spent on Math, Literacy, and Science."
- "Feel the District has a strong commitment..however, current financial limitations and limits on classroom instruction time **limit** the atmosphere."



FPS Faculty

The faculty's general perception of the District's commitment to the Arts & its integration into the curriculum:

- "It is not that committed. We lost our music program and it has not been replaced."
- "It varies from school to school and depends on the philosophy of the building administrator."
- "We do not even have the basic necessities for academics, let alone the Arts."
- "The Director of Arts is extremely committed but it doesn't seem that the Central Office is supportive of her efforts & dedication."
- "There's never any professional development on it - doesn't seem like a priority in the District."
- "I feel it is selective. Not all middle schools have equitable access to the Arts or funding."



FPS Faculty

75% of faculty members feel the District DOES NOT encourage educators to use the arts to improve teaching and learning. They say:

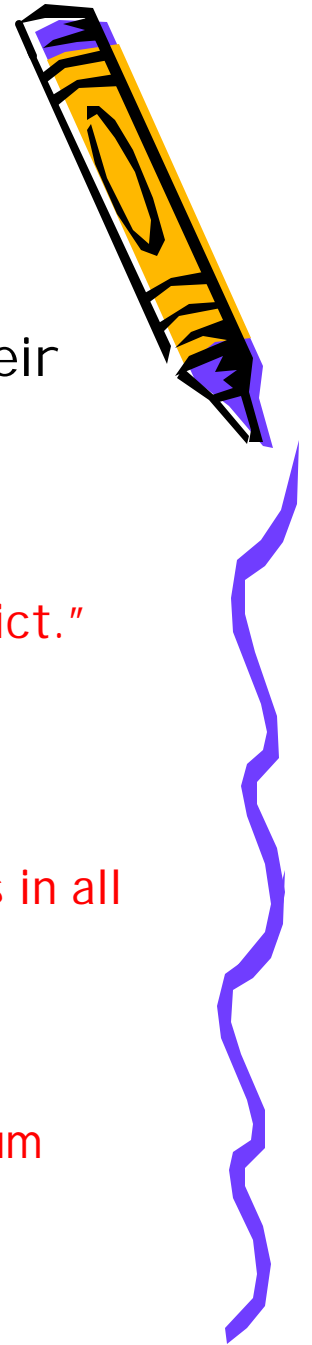
- "There is no professional development offered - the push is always on Math or MCAS."
- "Specialists are always separate at faculty meetings, etc. so we only have a vague idea of their program and are never asked for input, etc."
- "We have an Arts magnet school which seems to suggest that Art is seen as a separate entity."
- "Reading, Writing, and Math are top priorities and using art is not stressed."
- "If a regular classroom teacher wants to do a creative project, materials are limited. Also, there never seems to be enough time for planning."



FPS Faculty

What they say the School District can do to support their efforts:

- "Provide materials and training." - "Often materials are purchased personally for the Arts."
- "Provide music lessons to younger students in the District."
- "Allow for cultural enrichment programs and artist in residence programs."
- "Work with FAM to bring art into the schools."
- "More professional development in integrating the Arts in all areas."
- "Have Second Graders see more performances (plays, dances, music)."
- "Allow us to exercise more flexibility with the curriculum and not feel guilty about letting students be creative."



FPS Faculty

What they say the School District can do to support their efforts:

- "Ideas on how to integrate Arts into the MCAS/standards driven curriculum."
- "Fixing schedule to allow more time to devote to Arts and time to integrate Art into classroom."
- "Hire art teachers to 'Team Teach' with other subjects to help show how art can make meaningful connections."
- "Make sure that all facets are covered by Certified teachers - Art, Library, Music, PE, health, etc."



FPS Faculty

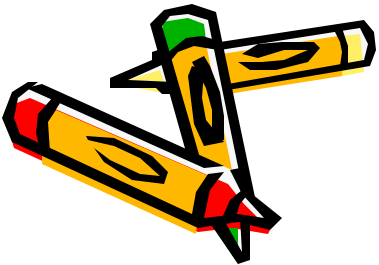
What resources they require to integrate the Arts into their classroom:

- More Arts personnel & specialists to work with teachers and in the individual classrooms
- General & basic supplies - paint, glue, scissors, crayons, etc.
- Funding for field trips to museums and performance events
- Other art media besides crayons and paints
- More visiting performers and artists
- Professional development
- Computers
- CDs, DVDs, CD players, CD-ROMs, photos,
- Ideas
- More time to plan



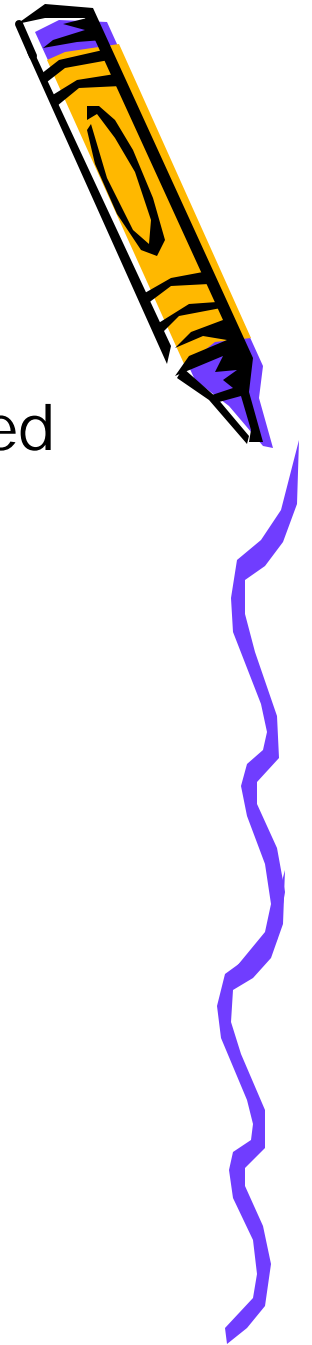
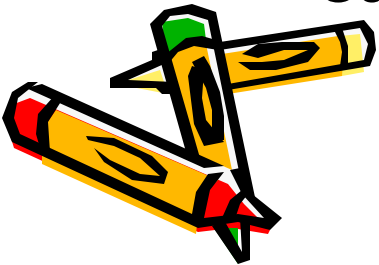
FPS Parents

- All respondents say they have at least one child in FPS District
- 63% say their child takes Art, Music and/or Dance privately - outside the public schools
- Dance is the #1 private Arts activity, followed by private music and voice lessons
- 28% say their child participates in a school district sponsored after school arts activity



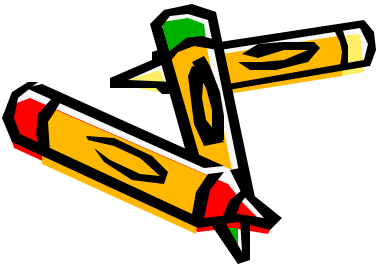
FPS Parents

- Parents rate ALL of the Arts programs offered by the District as Somewhat-to-Extremely Valuable
- Parents Most Value:
 - Visual Arts Program 1-8
 - General Music 1-8
 - Enrichment Programs in the Arts
 - Lincoln Center/FAM Collaboration
 - District-Wide Arts Showcase
 - School Music Performance & Art Exhibits



FPS Parents

- 84% consider the Arts part of the core academic curriculum
- 39% believe FPS is “Very” Committed to Arts Education (1/1-4); 39% believe FPS is “Committed” (2/1-4)
- 35% respond “Maybe” when asked if a separate Arts requirement should be added as a condition of graduation;
 - 32% say “Yes”
 - 22% say “No”
- 79% say they Do NOT financially support any school or community-based Arts program; of the 21% who DO financially contribute to the Arts, the Fitchburg Art Museum is the organization most often named



FPS Parents

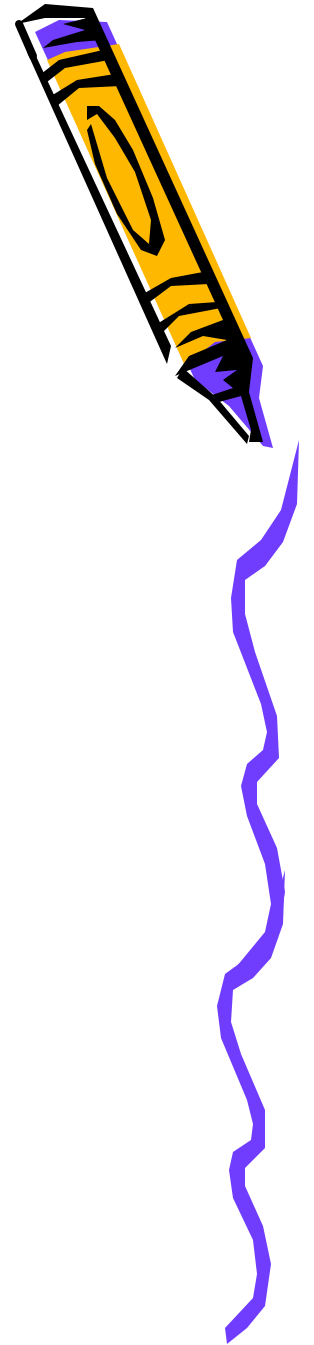
- 37% say they support school and community-based Arts programs by donating time, needed materials, etc.
- 47% say they DO NOT believe FPS integrates enough arts into the core academic curriculum
 - 23% say "Maybe"
 - 20% say "Yes"
 - 10% say "Don't Know"
- 82% say they have attended the Annual District Arts Showcase or another community event to see a student performance/exhibition



FPS Parents

Top 5 Areas for Improvement regarding Arts Education in the schools:

1. Budget/Funding (22%)
2. Staffing (15%)
3. Facilities for Productions (11%)
4. Arts Programming (10%)
5. Arts Advocacy (9%)
5. Community Involvement (9%)



FPS Parents

Ways the District can improve/enhance Arts programming:

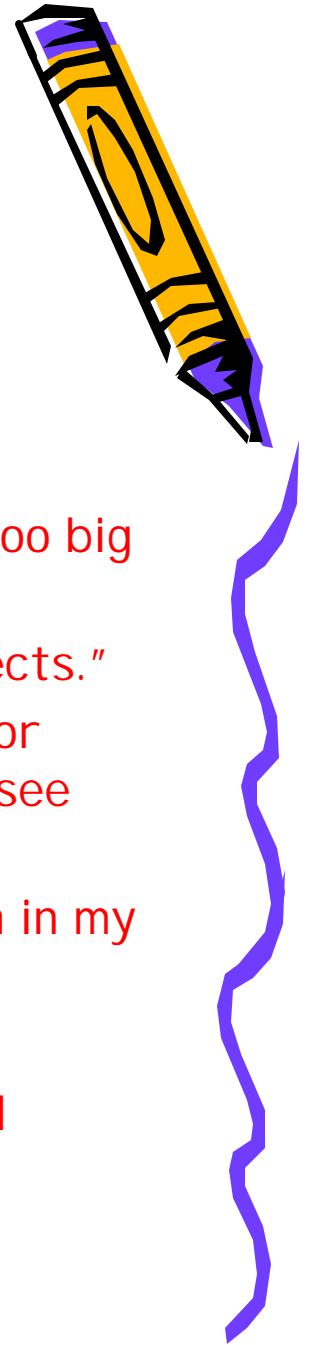
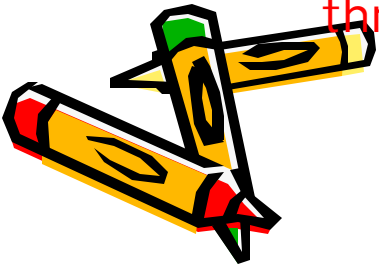
- "By holding events at other times than during the day."
- "More venues & opportunities to exhibit in the community."
- "More staffing and a lot more money."
- "Start art appreciation & music programs as early as 1st Grade."
- "Arts exhibition in Elementary School."
- "Spring & Fall concerts in all middle schools."
- "Funding to provide programs in each school, Pre-K to 12."
- "Cease making arts the first item to be cut, indicating it is optional fluff."
- "Healthy competition between classes & schools."



FPS Parents

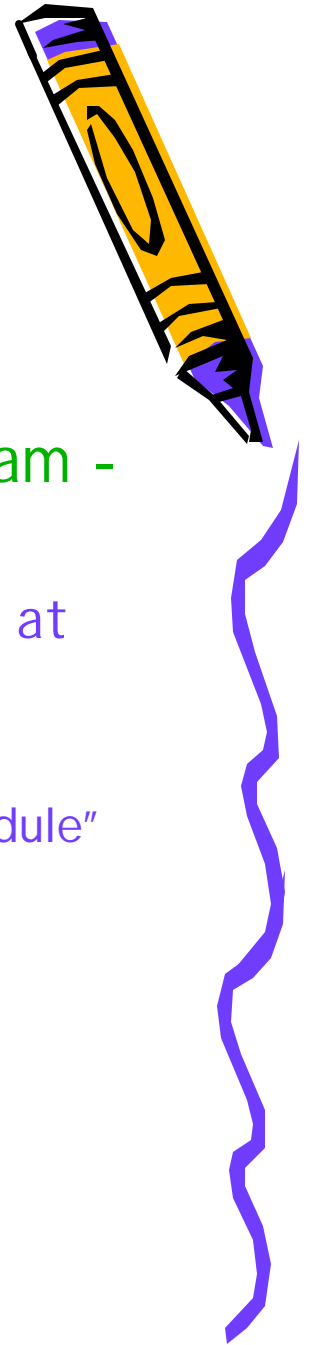
Ways the District can improve/enhance Arts programming:

- "A second teaching resource for HS music - it's growing too big for one person to handle effectively."
- "Add more time in the day/curriculum for Art & art projects."
- "District Arts Showcase should be held in a larger venue or broken up over several days. Very crowded & difficult to see everything."
- "Better communication - I'm only aware of what's going on in my school."
- "Restore the Dance program to where it was in 2001/02."
- "Develop a long range plan and get the community involved through donations and by volunteering."



FPS Students Memorial Middle School

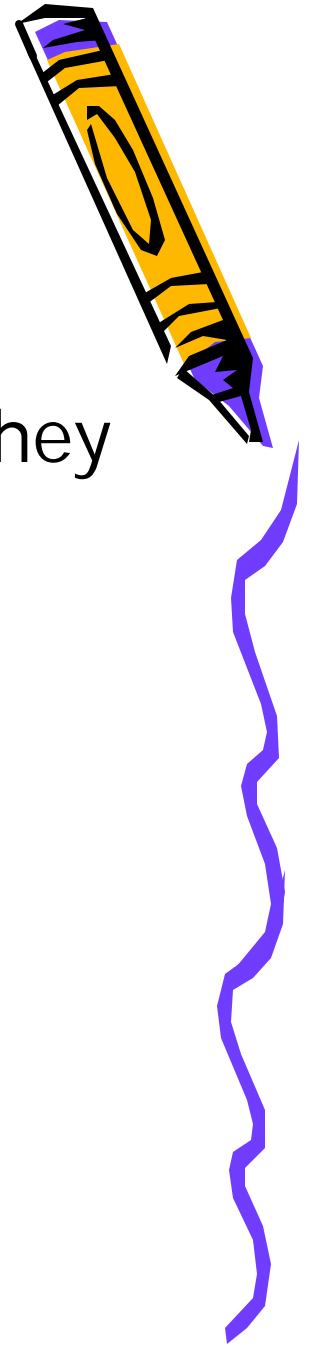
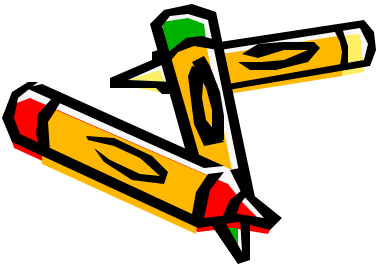
- Memorial offers an Instrumental Music program - shares teacher with Academy
- Only 3% say they play an instrument or are in the Band at school
 - 64% say it's because they "Don't Want To"
 - 16% say it's because they "Don't Have Time in their Schedule"
- Memorial does not have a Chorus program
- Memorial does not have a Drama program



FPS Students Memorial Middle School

Top 5 Classes or Electives students say they would like to see added at their school:

1. Computer Animation (12%)
2. Computer Graphics (10%)
3. Pottery/Ceramics (9%)
4. Fashion Design (9%)
5. Photography (8%)



FPS Students Memorial Middle School

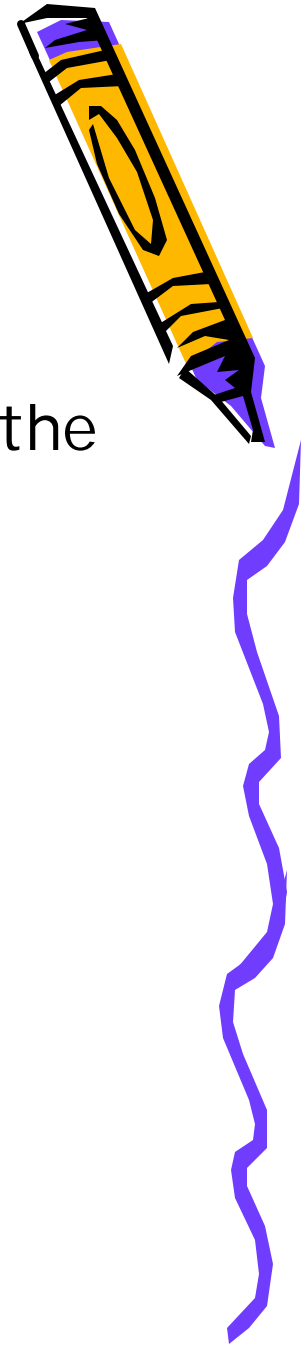
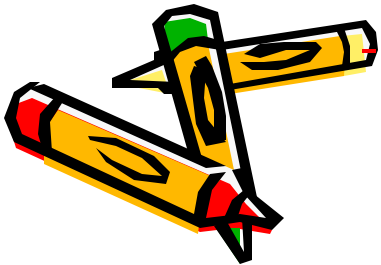
- Students say it's 'Very Important' that their school offers Visual Arts and Dance
- Students say it's 'Important' that their school offer Music, Visual Arts, and Drama
- 20% of students say they would consider a career in the Arts; 40% say 'No' and 40% say 'Maybe'
- 40% of students say the skills they learn in Art make them a better student



FPS Students Memorial Middle School

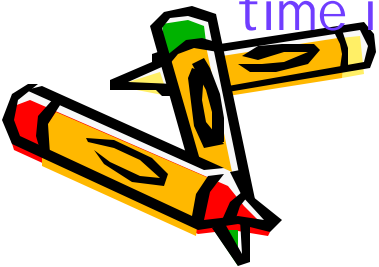
What keeps students from being more active in the Arts:

1. Not Interested
2. Don't Have Time During the School Day
3. Conflicts after school with other activities
4. Activity I want is not offered:
 - Cheerleading
 - Drama
 - Guitar
 - Singing



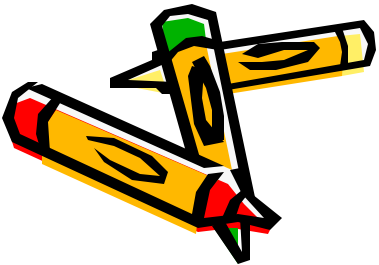
FPS Students MPS

- MPS offers an Instrumental Music program - share teacher with Academy
- 62% of respondents say they play an instrument at school or are in the school Band
- Of the 38% who do not participate in a school instrumental program, the majority say because the "Don't Want To" or "Don't have time in their schedule"
- MPS has a Chorus program
- 68% of respondents DO NOT sing in the school Chorus. the majority say because they "Don't Want To" or "Don't have time in their schedule"; 32% of respondents are in Chorus



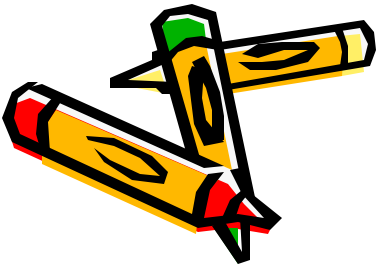
FPS Students MPS

- MPS has a Drama program
- 60% of respondents say they have or will participate in a school play or musical this year
- Respondents say they would like to see MPS add the following classes or electives
 1. Dance
 2. Pottery/Ceramics
 3. Fashion Design
 4. Photography Class
 5. Song Writing, Guitar Class



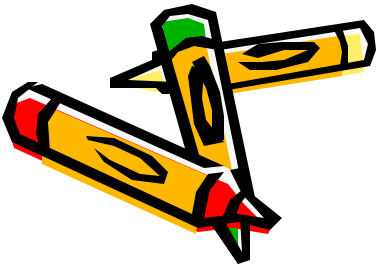
FPS Students MPS

- 36% of respondents say they would consider a career in the Arts; an additional 52% respond, 'Maybe'
- 75% say the skills they've learned from the Arts have helped make them a better student
- The Number 1 reason students say they are not more active in the Arts is because the activity they want is not offered - **Photography, Pottery, Cheerleading, Dance**



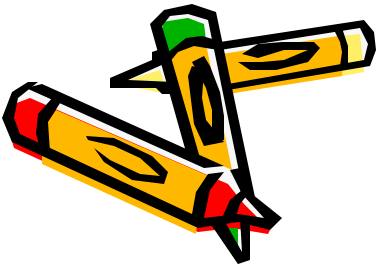
FPS Students Academy Middle School

- Academy offers an Instrumental Music program - Share teacher with Memorial
- 10% of students who responded say they play an instrument in school and or take Band; among the 90% that DO NOT, the primary reason is "Don't Want To" (68%)
- Academy's school Chorus meets before school
- 5% of students who responded say they sing in the Chorus
- The primary reason 95% DO NOT sing in the Chorus is that they "Don't Want To" (52%) and because it's "Held before school and they cannot get there in time" (35%)



FPS Students Academy Middle School

- Academy DOES NOT offer a Drama program
- Students say they would like the following classes or electives offered at their school:
 1. Pottery/Ceramics, Computer Graphics, Dance, Computer Animation
 2. Guitar Class, Drama, Photography
 3. Fashion Design,
 4. Songwriting
 5. Other - Cooking



FPS Students Academy Middle School

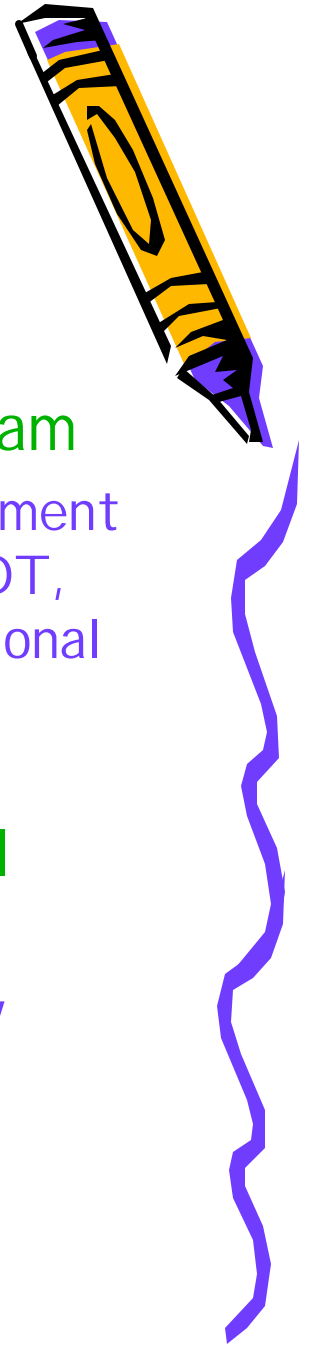
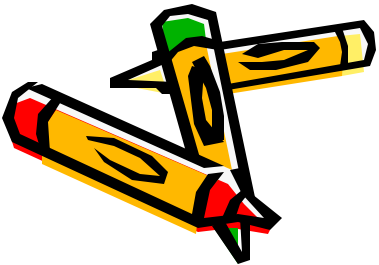
- 44% of student respondents say they are considering a career in the Arts; an additional 36% say, 'Maybe'
- 62% say the skills they've learned from the Arts have helped make them a better student
- The Number 1 reason students say they are not more active in the Arts is because the activity they want is not offered (28%) - **Dance, Cooking, Computer Animation/Graphics, photography**



FPS Students

BF Brown Middle School

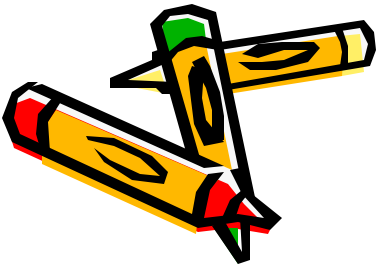
- BF Brown offers an Instrumental Music program
- 13% of students who responded say they play an instrument in school and or take Band; among the 87% that DO NOT, the primary reason is "Don't Want To" (65%). An additional 22% say it's because they "Don't Have Time" in their schedule
- BF Brown's school Chorus meets before school
- Only 4% of respondents say they sing in the Chorus
- 96% say they DO NOT sing in the Chorus because they "Don't Want To"



FPS Students

BF Brown Middle School

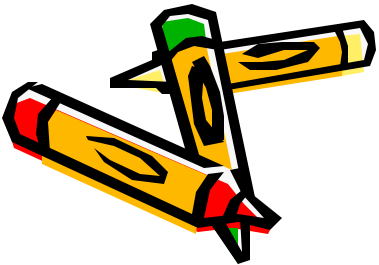
- Academy offers a Drama program
- 17% of respondents say they have or will be participating in a school play or musical this year
- Students say they would like the following classes or electives offered at their school:
 1. Computer Graphics
 2. Dance
 3. Computer Animation
 4. Photography Class
 5. Fashion Design, Songwriting



FPS Students

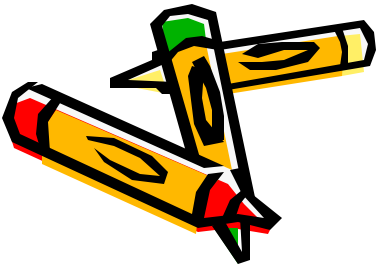
BF Brown Middle School

- 42% of student respondents say they are considering a career in the Arts; an additional 40% say, 'Maybe'
- 62% say the skills they've learned from the Arts have helped make them a better student
- The Number 1 reason students say they are not more active in the Arts is because they "Don't Want To". 17% say it's because it's "Not Convenient to Stay After School - Can't get a ride home"



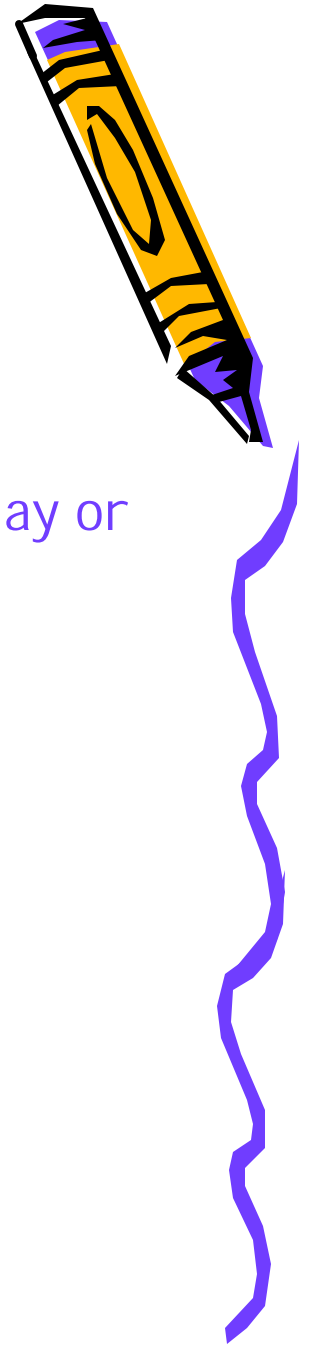
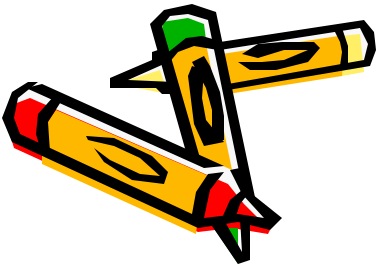
FPS Students FHS

- FHS offers an Instrumental program
- 23% say they play an instrument or are in the school Band
- Among those that don't play an instrument in school, the majority (83%) say it's because they "Don't Want To" or "Don't Have Time in their Schedule"
- FHS offers a Chorus program
- 19% of respondents sing in the school Chorus
- 79% say they DO NOT sing in the Chorus because they "Don't Want To" or "Don't Have Time in their Schedule"



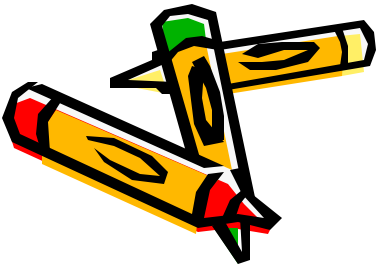
FPS Students FHS

- FHS offers a Drama Program
- 47% say they have or will be participating in a school play or musical this year.
- Students say they would like the following electives offered:
 1. Photography
 2. Fashion Design
 3. Dance
 4. Songwriting



FPS Students FHS

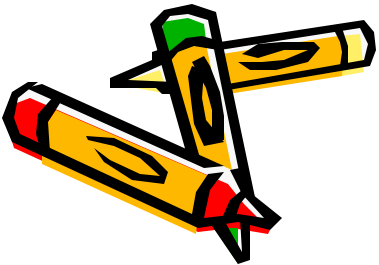
- 42% of students say they are NOT considering a career in the Arts; 36% say "Maybe"; 22% say YES
- 40% say they "DON'T KNOW" if the skills they learned in the Arts helps make them a better student; 33% say "YES"
- 52% say they "DON'T KNOW" if they would benefit from a separate Arts requirement for graduation - 34% say "NO"



FPS Students FHS

What keeps them from being more active in the Arts:

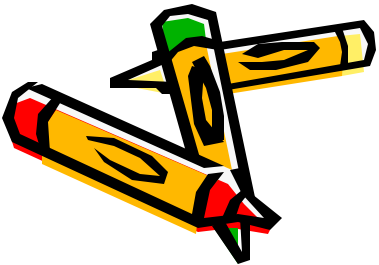
1. No time in their schedule during school day
2. Not Interested
3. Activity they want is not offered - Music Theory, Photography, Dance, Guitar Lessons



FPS Students

What they enjoy most about participating in the Arts:

- "They connect me with new people"
- "They are fun and you learn new things about yourself"
- "It gives you something to do after school and it is fun"
- "For Band it's fun to play instruments and learn how to experience different things"
- "It is helping my future by adding to my resume and I am a better public speaker because of my experience"
- "The way it lets me express myself"

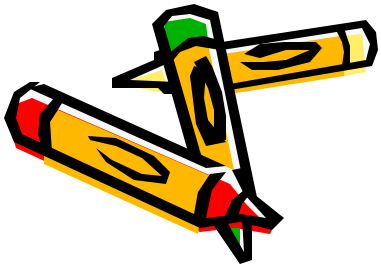


FPS School Committee & Administration



The District's commitment to the arts

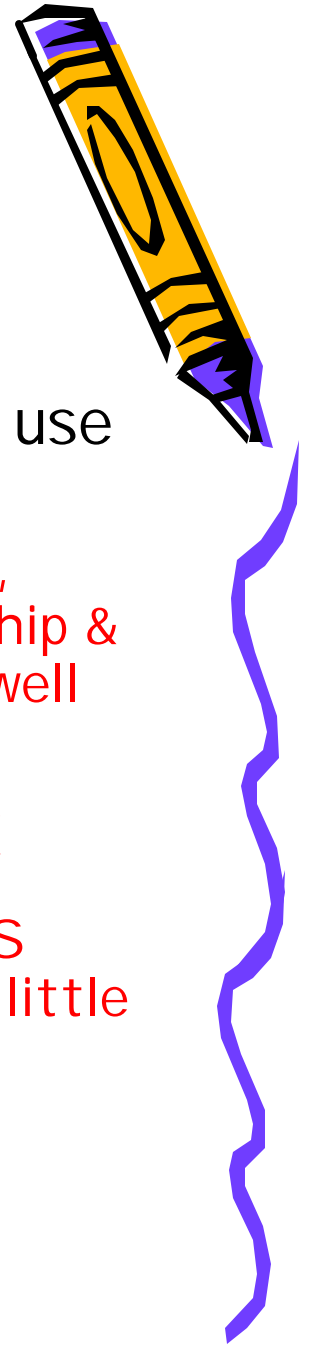
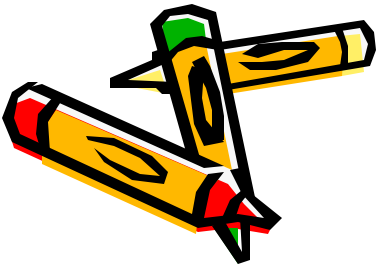
- "Our school district views arts as teacher prep time at the elementary level. If it was committed to the arts, the Music program at Packer would have been saved"
- "Overall there is a commitment but after \$9 million cut the Arts are reduced"
- "What we do we do well but resources are never sufficient"
- "The museum partnership is evidence of our support for the arts. I also think they could do a better job"



FPS School Committee & Administration

Does the administration encourage educators to use the arts to improve teaching & learning?

- "The arts have strong ties to language development, science and math perception. The Museum Partnership & CD done by FAM demonstrate how the arts can be well utilized in education"
- "I don't feel we encourage them enough due to time demands, budget deficits and very poor technology"
- "Teachers at all levels are being pressured by MCAS testing to stress content, content, content...leaving little time or energy to integrate content with the arts"



FPS School Committee & Administration

Thoughts on the current school budget allocation for arts education

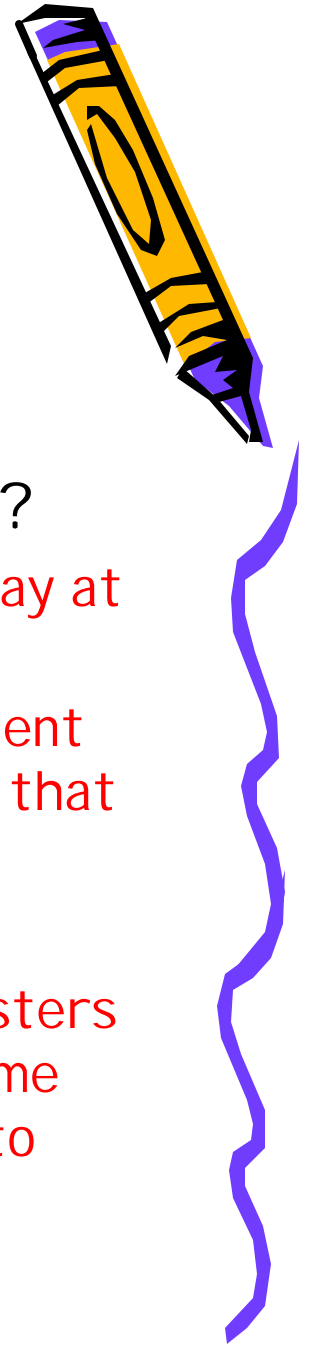
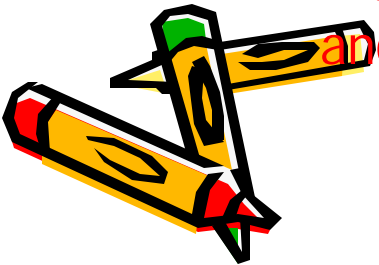
- "All departments have been hurt by cuts"
- "Cutting the Museum Program for Crocker is an example of insufficient allocation for the arts. Professional development linking arts to academics should be done"
- "If it wasn't for Jennifer Jones & 21st Century support we wouldn't be able to support Chorus after school. We need more emphasis on Instrumental Music - happy we have kept Art & Music at the elementary level"
- "The elimination of the music program at one school to staff another school clearly indicates the Arts budget is not sufficiently or highly valued"



FPS School Committee & Administration

Do you believe the District employs a sufficient number of full-time arts education specialists?

- "I'd like more Drama, Dance, etc. as part of every day at McKay"
- "Dance is neglected at the Elementary level. Movement education is not only healthful but develops rhythm that helps in all areas"
- "No. Unable due to cuts"
- "We need more physical education to get our youngsters up and moving. Fitchburg also needs to hire a full time Music teacher to replace the teacher transferred to another school"



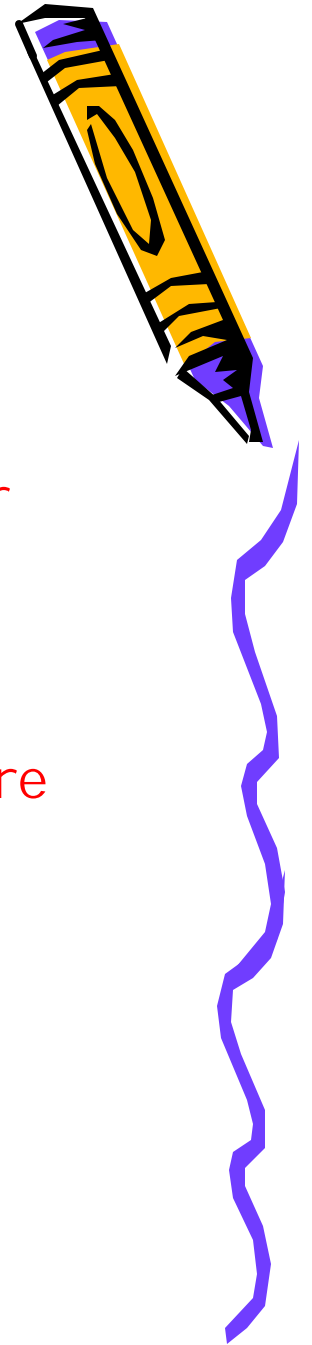
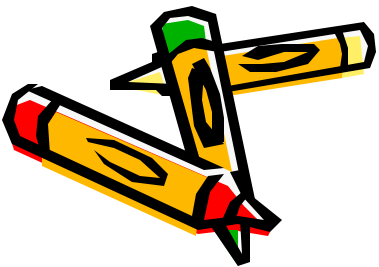
FPS School Committee & Administration

Ways to integrate the Arts at the.....

Elementary Level: Instrumental Music classes, full year Chorus, more assemblies & field trips, more plays, interactive learning, more movement/dance programs

Middle School Level: More assemblies & field trips, more plays, interactive learning, more movement programs

High School Level: More assemblies & field trips, more plays, interactive learning, more movement programs



FPS School Committee & Administration

- Respondents overwhelmingly feel that there is not enough professional development to assist classroom teachers in mastering new techniques for integrating Arts into the curriculum. They say that all professional development is focused on the academic areas associated with MCAS
- Respondents feel the District is strongest in the areas of Fine Arts (especially at the Elementary level), Theatre, extra-curricular activities at the elementary level, and MPS
- Respondents feel the District is weakest in not making activities like Theatre and Dance available district-wide, not having Art & Music offered in all schools, and by not offering more Dance and Movement programs



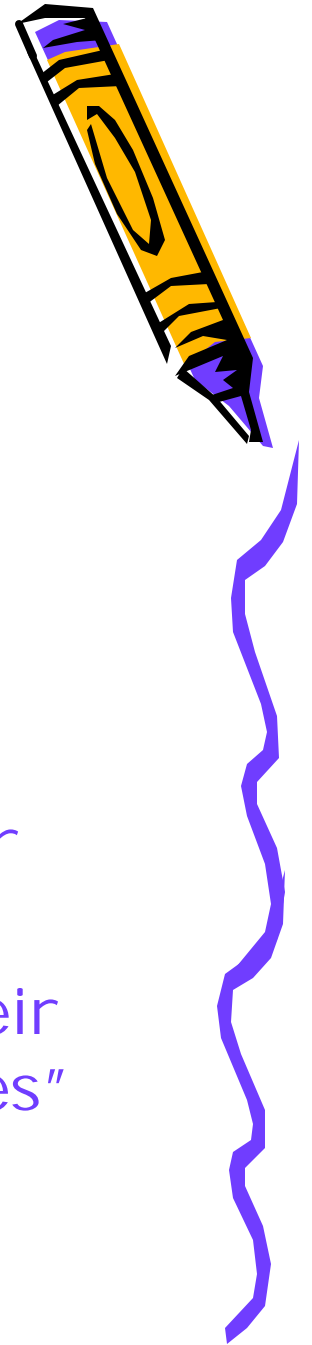
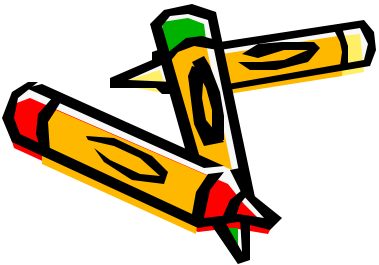
FPS Arts Faculty

- 50% of respondents say they are required to teach classes outside of their specialty in their school
- 67% say they DO NOT have the opportunity to participate in common planning time with other specialists or academic teams
- 58% say they are NOT provided a budget from their school to purchase materials for their program
- 67% say they have only SOME of the instructional materials necessary to satisfy the standards in the MA Curriculum Arts Frameworks



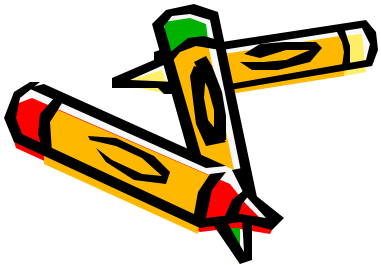
FPS Arts Faculty

- 42% say they use the Internet for classroom research & teaching materials "Sometimes"
 - 33% say "Frequently"
- 83% feel they have adequate & functional classroom space
- 75% say "Sometimes" they have time for their own artistic professional development
- 42% feel the District DOES NOT support their professional development; 42% say "Sometimes"



FPS Arts Faculty

- 73% say they attend creative workshops 1-2 times per year
- 58% say they would be willing to pay \$25-\$50 for a full day workshop with a well-known presenter
- Top 3 District-wide projects Arts Faculty say they or their students have participated in
 1. Annual District Showcase
 2. Mayor's Christmas Card Project
 3. Youth Art Month



FPS Arts Faculty

Top 3 Arts Programs to be offered during the school day as part of the arts curriculum district-wide:

High School Electives:

Dance, Musical Theatre, Orchestra

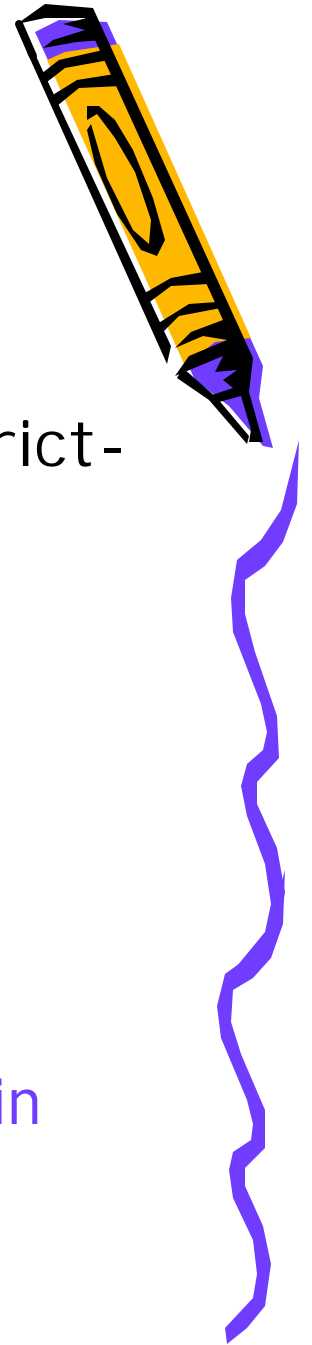
Middle School Programs

Dance, Chorus, Drama, Orchestra

Elementary School Programs

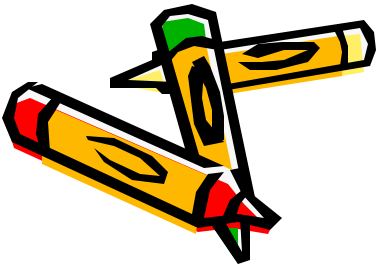
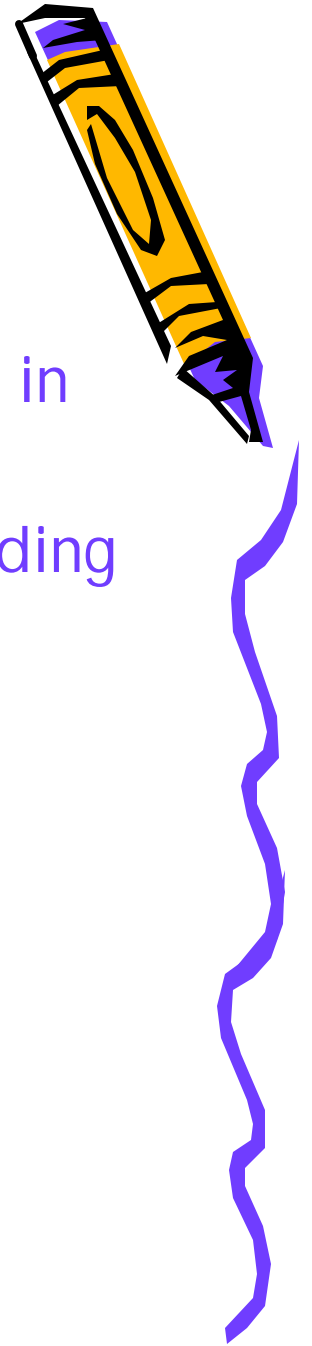
Chorus, Puppetry Arts, Story Illustrating

- 67% support a separate Arts requirement for graduation for all students, which is included in the GPA



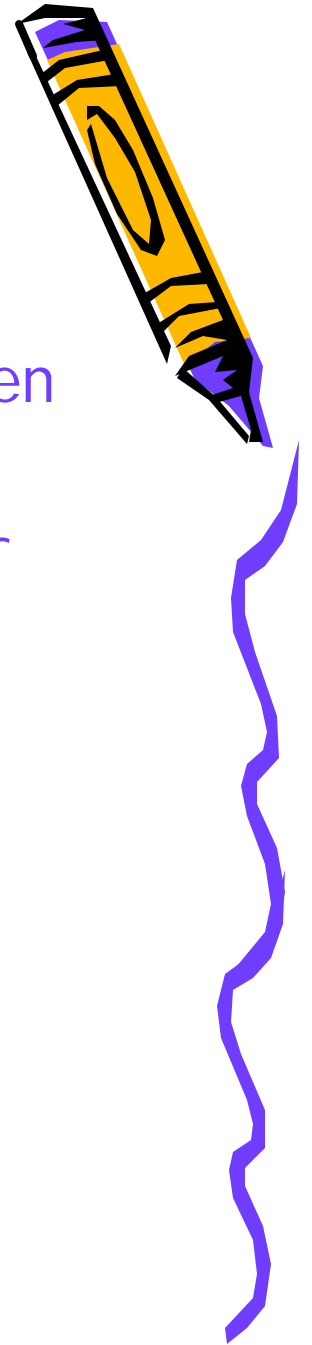
Community At-Large

- 78% of respondents have a child participating in the event at which they were surveyed
- 73% learned about the event they were attending through their child
 - 10% say a Flyer on the event
 - 8% saw information about it around school
- 49% rate the Arts at FPS, "Very Good"
 - 30% give a rating of "Good"
 - 21% give a rating of "Excellent"



Community At-Large

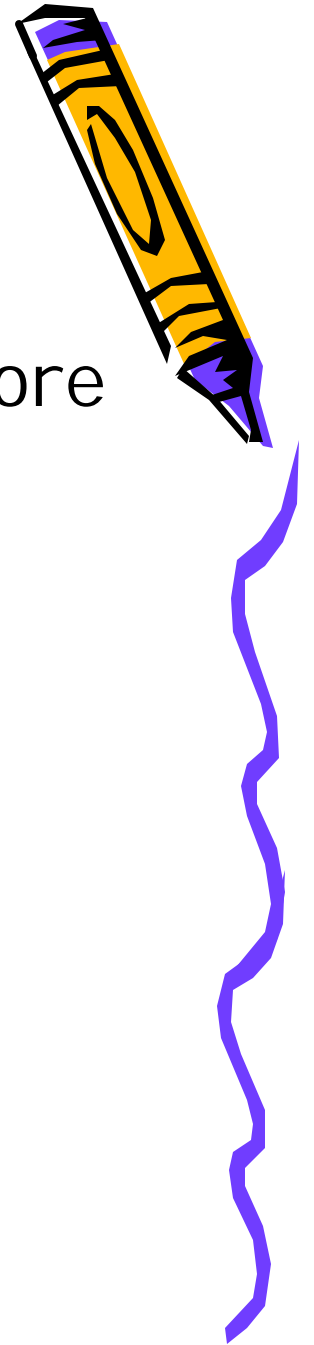
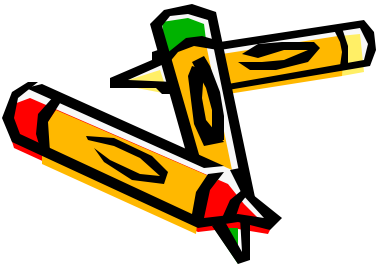
- 89% of respondents feel the Arts help children achieve in other subject areas
- When asked if they thought the schools offer enough arts opportunities for students:
 - 44% say "Somewhat"
 - 28% say "No"
 - 28% say "Yes"
- 75% of respondents believe the Arts are as important as other subject areas



Community At-Large

Respondents say they would like to see more opportunities for students in the following areas:

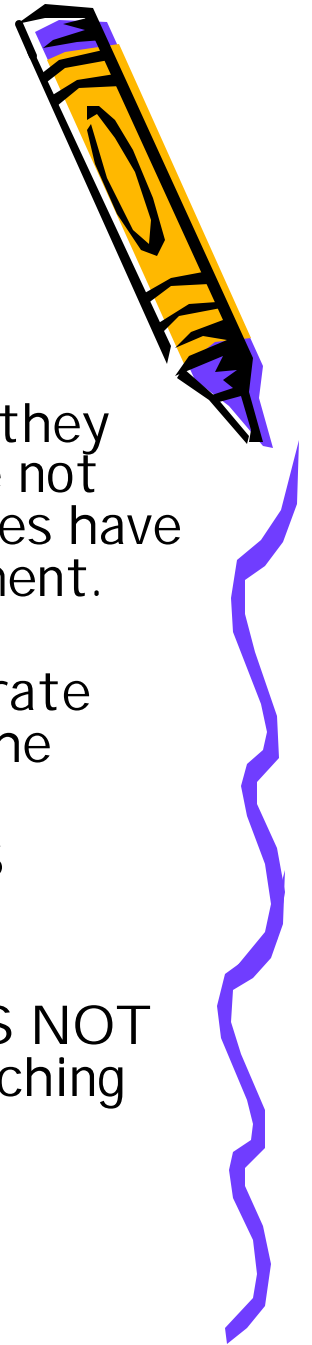
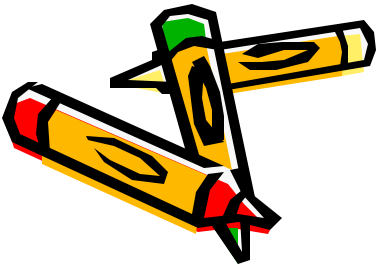
1. Dance
2. Instrumental Music
3. Graphic Arts/Communications
3. Chorus
4. Visual Arts
5. Drama



Summary Points

District's commitment to the Arts:

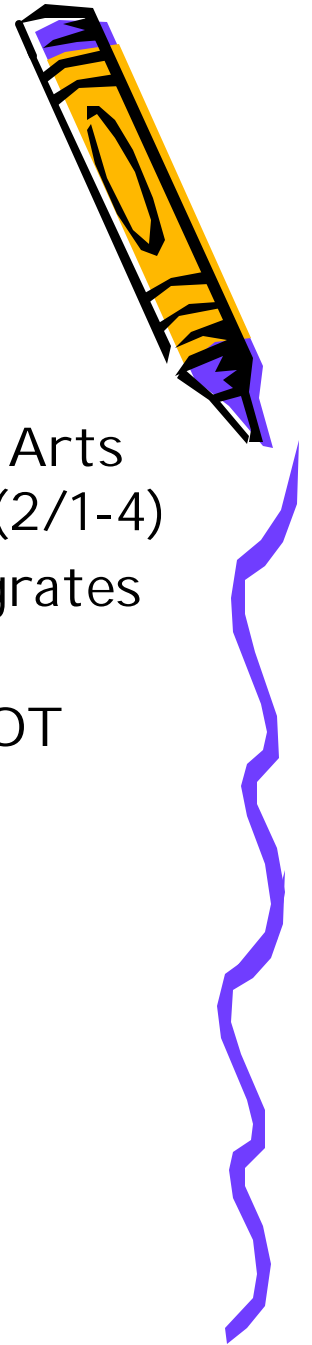
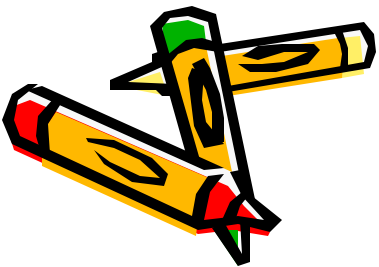
- **School Committee/Administration** respondents say they feel there is a commitment; however, resources are not sufficient and district's Arts programs and resources have been cut and currently do not reflect that commitment. Faculty respondents express similar sentiments
- 43% of **Business & Community Leader** respondents rate FPS "Somewhat Committed" to the Arts; 36% say the school district is "Committed"
- 67% of responding **Arts Organizations** believes FPS considers Arts Education "Important"; 33% say "Extremely Important"
- 75% of **Faculty** respondents feel the District DOES NOT encourage educators to use the arts to improve teaching and learning



Summary Points

District's commitment to the Arts:

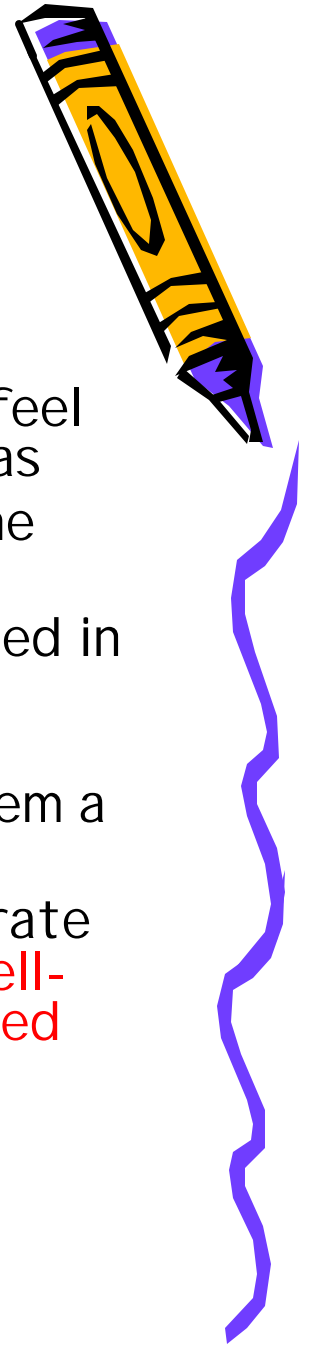
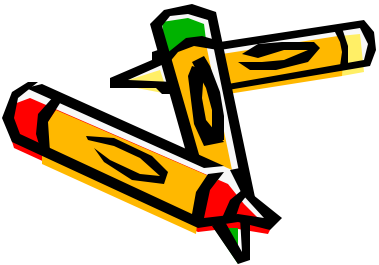
- 39% of **Parents** believe FPS is "Very" Committed to Arts Education (1/1-4); 39% believe FPS is "Committed" (2/1-4)
- 47% of **Parents** say they DO NOT believe FPS integrates enough arts into the core academic curriculum
- 42% of the **Arts Faculty** feel the District DOES NOT support their professional development; 42% say "Sometimes"



Summary Points

The value of the Arts in Education:

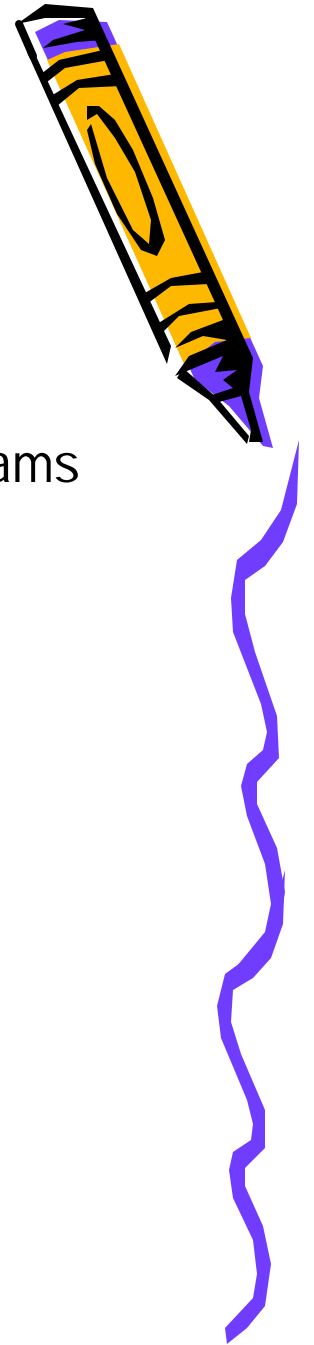
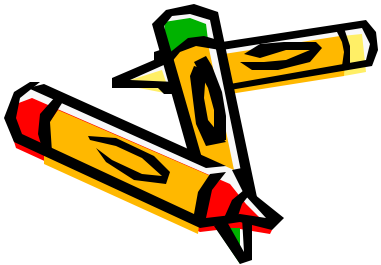
- 89% of **Community At-Large** respondents say they feel the Arts help children achieve in other subject areas
- 75% of **Community At-Large** respondents believe the Arts are as important as other subject areas
- One-third of **H.S. students** say the skills they learned in the Arts help make them a better student
- 69% of all **Middle School** respondents say the skills they've learned from the Arts have helped make them a better student
- 64% of **Business & Community Leader** respondents rate Arts Education "Extremely Important" because "**Well-rounded students should translate into a well-rounded adult, which provides a stronger pool of qualified employees**"



Summary Points

The value of the Arts in Education:

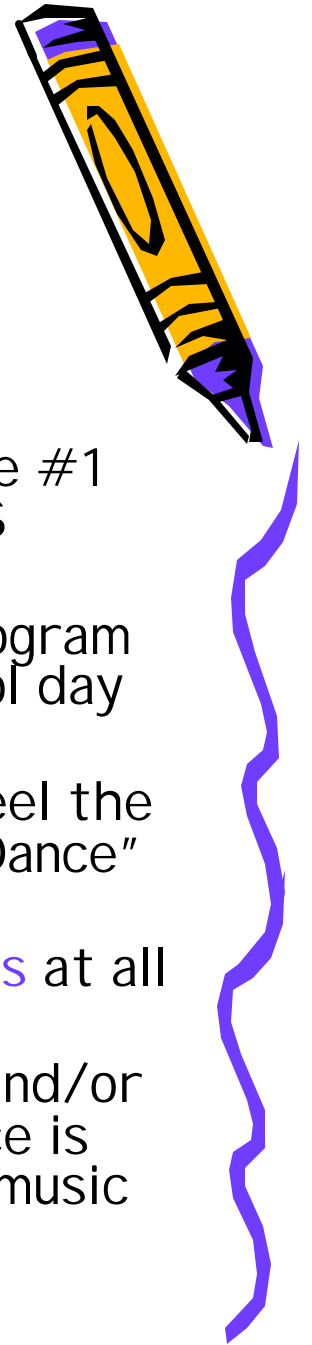
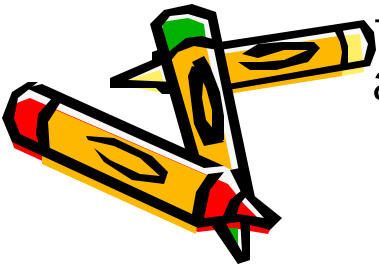
- All [Arts Organizations](#) interviewed feel Arts Programs are 'Extremely Important' to the education process



Summary Points

Dance is identified as the #1 area for Arts improvement district-wide:

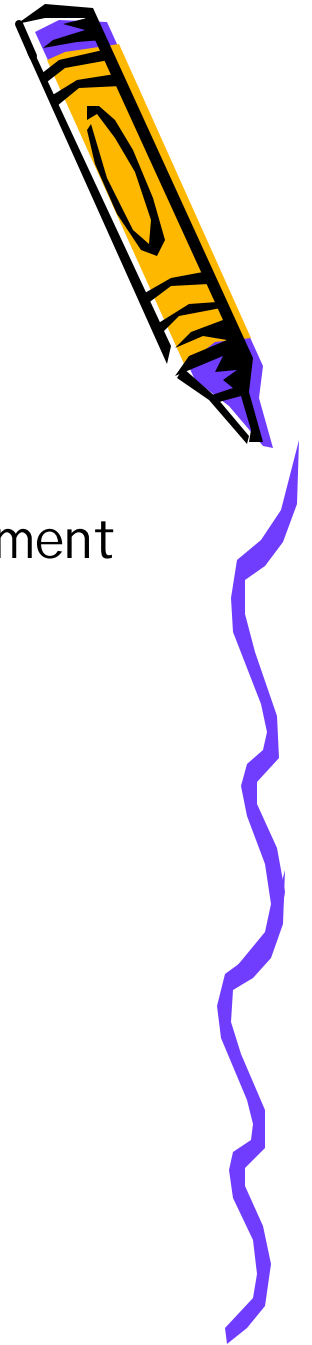
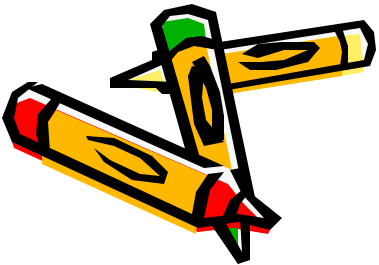
- **Community At-Large** respondents say Dance is the #1 opportunity they would like to see offered to FPS students
- **Arts Faculty** respondents rate Dance #1 Arts program they liked to see added/offered during the school day for both H.S. and Middle School students
- **School Committee/Administration** respondents feel the District is weakest in not making activities like "Dance" available district-wide
- Dance is among the Top 5 Arts programs **Students** at all grade levels would like to see added/offered
- 63% of **Parents** say their child takes Art, Music and/or Dance privately - outside the public schools; Dance is the #1 private Arts activity, followed by private music and voice lessons



Summary Points

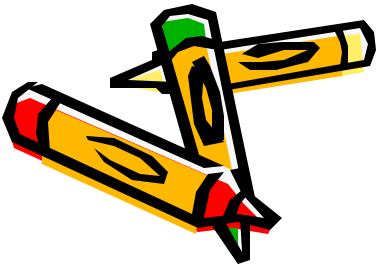
Strong demand to make Arts a requirement for graduation:

- 67% of **Arts Faculty** respondents support a requirement
- 35% of **HS students** say they would benefit from a separate Arts requirement for graduation
- 35% of **Parents** respond "Maybe" when asked if a separate Arts requirement should be added as a condition of graduation; 32% say "YES"



Summary Points

- **Students** are more apt to participate in Arts programs (Chorus, Music, Theatre)/electives if they are offered during the school day as opposed to before or after school
- **Students** in both Middle and HS express a strong interest in Arts offerings in the areas of Computer Graphics/ Computer Animation, Photography, Dance, Fashion Design and Songwriting
- **Arts & General Faculty** believe they can be more successful integrating Arts in the Education process if they could get some basic resources, professional development, and planning time
- **Parents** most value General Music and Visual Arts Education for all students, Grades 1-8

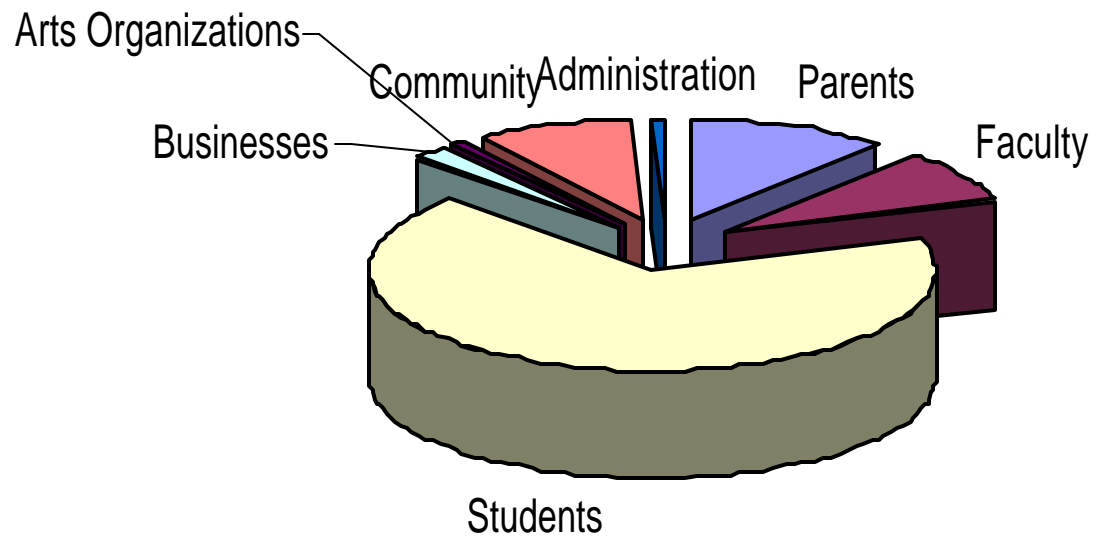




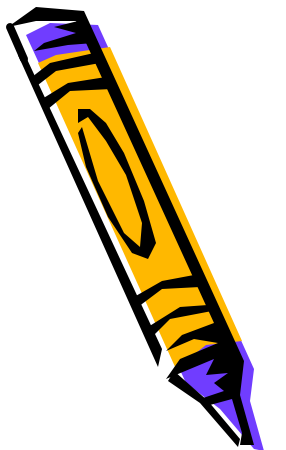
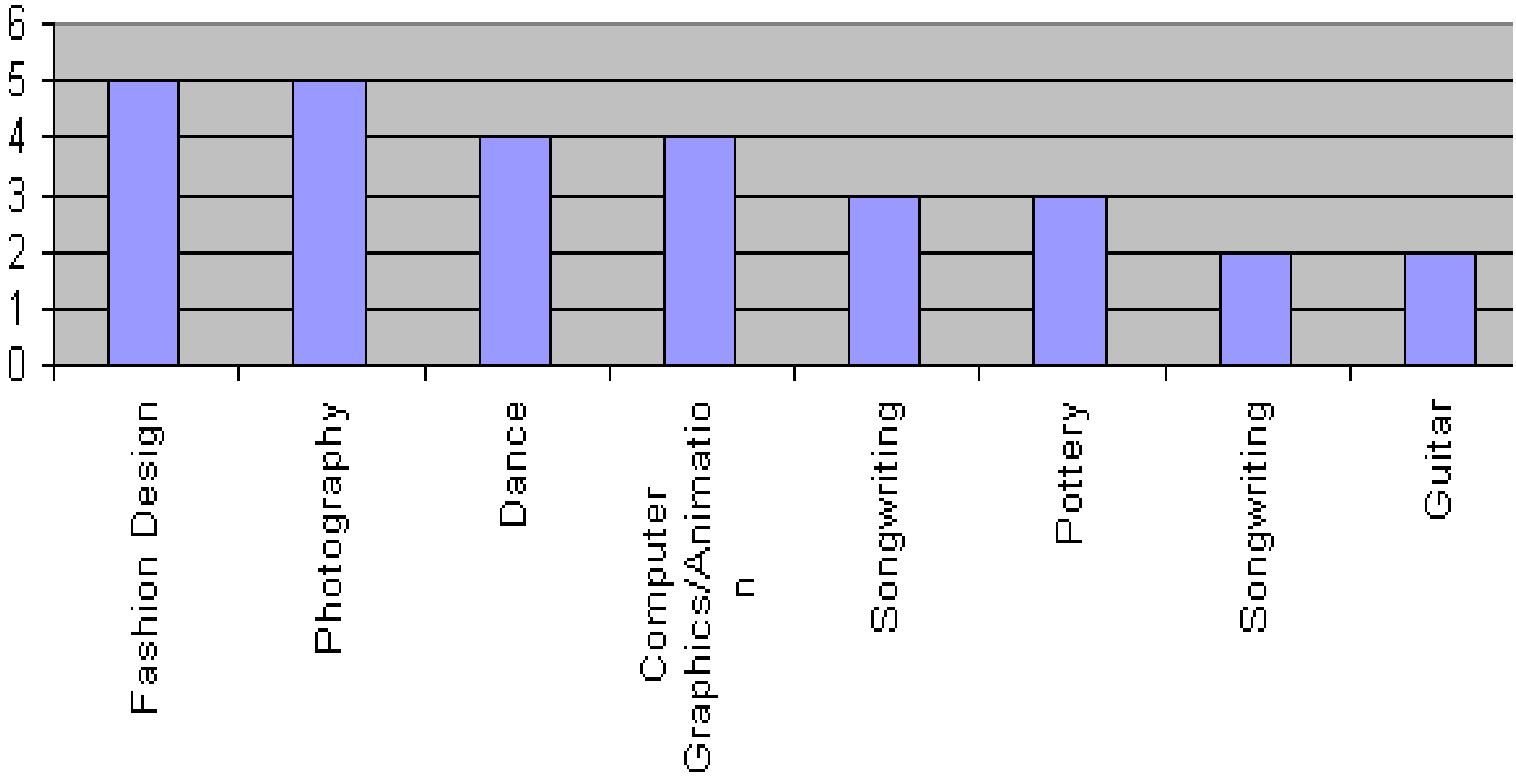
Parents	73
Faculty	55
Students	433
Businesses	15
Arts Organizations	6
Community	56
Administration	6
Total	644

Who responded to the Surveys?

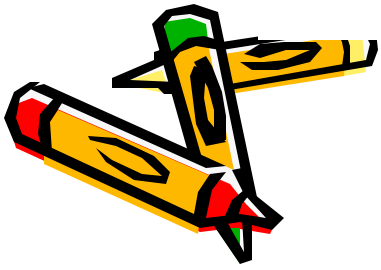
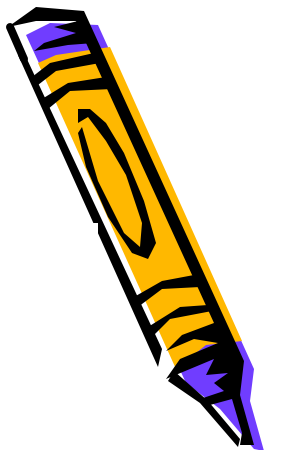
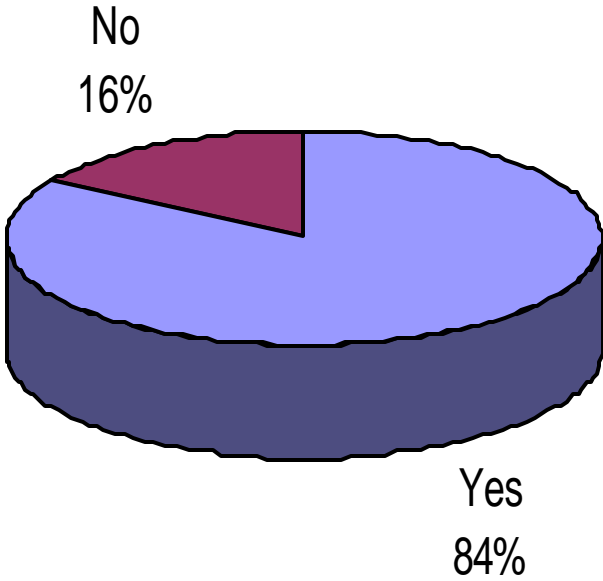
Respondents by Type



Top 4 Student Requested Arts Programs



Parents Who Consider Arts Part of the Core Academic Curriculum



Parents' Perception of FPS Commitment to the Arts

