

Fine Arts

Art Levels I, II, III, and IV

1-2 – Perception. The student develops and organizes ideas from the environment. Creative expression/performance. The student expresses ideas through original artworks, using a variety of media with appropriate skill. → All students are encouraged to enter the School Days Art Contest. Entries are open to all media but must be original work of the student. Work is divided into grade level previous to judging. For more information on the Art Contest, contact schooldays@texrenfest.com.

3 – Historical/cultural heritage. The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture as records of human achievement. → Prior to attending, discuss art from the Italian Renaissance and Tudor England with the students. Designers of the Texas Renaissance Festival took inspiration from these works for everything from costumes to stages. Have the students look for these inspirations while on site.

4 – Response/evaluation. The student makes informed judgments about personal artworks and the artworks of others. → All finalists from the Art Contest are displayed on site during School Days. Have the students look at the finalists and discuss the pieces. Also on site there are several artists of all types at the various shoppes. Discuss with the students the various forms of art and what type of art is purchased by the Renaissance culture.

Dance Level I

4.b. – Perform dance phrases or dances from several time periods with an understanding of historical and social contexts. → Encourage the students to attend the “School of Dance”. It is an interactive class where students are taught court dances.

Dance Level II

4.b – Choreograph short dance phrases that exhibit an understanding of various historical periods. → At School Days have the students attend the “School of Dance”. It is an interactive class where students are taught court dances. Following the trip to the Festival, have the students choreograph their own dance that incorporates the rules and standards of classical court dance.

Dance Level III

4. – Historical/cultural heritage. The student demonstrates an understanding of cultural, historical, and artistic diversity. → At School Days have the students attend the “School of Dance”. It is an interactive class where students are taught court dances. Following the trip to the Festival, have the students choreograph their own dance that incorporates the rules and standards of classical court dance.

Dance Level IV

4. – Historical/cultural heritage. The student demonstrates an understanding of cultural, historical, and artistic diversity. → At School Days have the students attend the “School of Dance”. It is an interactive

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class where students are taught court dances. Following the trip to the Festival, have the students choreograph their own dance that incorporates the rules and standards of classical court dance.

Music Levels I, II, III, and IV

1 – Perception. The student describes and analyzes musical sound and demonstrates musical artistry. → Throughout the Texas Renaissance Festival site, there are musicians of all types playing throughout the day. Have your students listen to some of these performances and discuss the various styles and instruments they heard throughout the day.

2-4 – Creative expression/performance. → School Days hosts a unique Early Music Festival open to all student groups. Students can perform early classical pieces in orchestra, choir, and band to compete against other school groups. For more information on the contests, please contact schooldays@texrenfest.com.

5 – Historical/Cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. → Wander the TRF site listening to the various musical performances. What elements make a particular type of music unique to the culture it represents? Compare the instrument choices and the melodies from various musicians. What ties all of the musicians together for the Festival yet makes them stand out from one another?

6 – Response/evaluation. The student responds to and evaluates music and musical performance. → Watch musicians perform. Discuss the performance afterwards.

Theatre Levels I, II, III, and IV

1.a. – Improvise, using emotional and sensory recall. → The entire Texas Renaissance Festival site is a stage. Actors, characters, merchants, and visitors alike create characters and invite the students into this unique world and challenge their improvisational skills.

2-3 – Creative expression/performance. → Students are invited to participate in the Theater Performing Arts Festival. Throughout the day students may perform and compete in One Act Play, Group Scenes, Duet Scenes, and Monologues. All students are given critiques by accredited professionals and the top scores in each age group are presented an award at the end of the day by King Henry VIII himself. For more information on this contest, please contact schooldays@texrenfest.com.

4 – Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates theatre to history, society, and culture. → Have students watch the various stage acts and interact with actors around the festival site. How do the performers blend modern culture with the historical element? What does the Festival pull from the past that makes the audience feel like they stepped back into time?

5 – Response/evaluation. The student responds to and evaluates theatre and theatrical performances. → The Texas Renaissance Festival is a stage. From the time the students enter the gates, the cast and crew at the Festival use performance to transform this modern location to a magical and historical one.

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As students of theatre, have the students look for the theatrical elements that allow this magical transition.