Welcome to OMA!

We’re so glad to have you join the team! This guide is meant to provide specific information to help you get off to a great and productive start.

WHO WE ARE.................................................................................................................................................................................. 2
  Our mission and history........................................................................................................................................................................ 2
  The Central Office team........................................................................................................................................................................ 2
  OMA Schools...................................................................................................................................................................................... 2

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES.................................................................................................................................................................. 2
  OMA Arts Integration Specialist (AIS).................................................................................................................................................. 2
  OMA Teaching Artist (TA)................................................................................................................................................................. 3
  OMA Classroom Teacher..................................................................................................................................................................... 3
  OMA Principal................................................................................................................................................................................... 3
  Professional Learning Communities (PLC)........................................................................................................................................ 3
  Instructional Design in the Arts (IDeA)............................................................................................................................................... 3
  Committees & Responsibilities........................................................................................................................................................... 3
  OMA’s Development........................................................................................................................................................................ 4

COLLABORATION.................................................................................................................................................................................. 4
  Planning Process.................................................................................................................................................................................. 4
  Teaching the Lesson............................................................................................................................................................................ 4

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU’RE INTEGRATING.......................................................................................................................... 5
  Calendars & Schedules................................................................................................................................................................. 5
  Communication, Coordination & Promotion..................................................................................................................................... 5

RESOURCES.......................................................................................................................................................................................... 6
  Lee Instructional Resource Center................................................................................................................................................... 6
  Glossary............................................................................................................................................................................................ 6
  Handouts/Printables........................................................................................................................................................................... 6
WHO WE ARE
Our mission and history

TUSD Opening Minds through the Arts is committed to providing educational experiences which foster creative exploration, build community relationships and honor the universal thread of humanity.

The Central Office team

Dr. Joan Ashcraft - Director of Fine and Performing Arts/Co-Creator for Opening Minds through the Arts (OMA)

Dr. Pamela Clarridge – Research Coordinator, OMA

Thom Lewis – OMA Program Coordinator/Dance Teaching Artist, OMA

Virginia (Ginny) Migliazza - Administrative Assistant, OMA

Teri Shepard-McBride - Administrative Assistant, OMA

Kirsten Cummins - Lead Cataloguer, Educational Materials Center (EMC)

Ruth Winslow - Arts Curator, EMC and ARTSmobile

Lauren Harding – Assistant Arts Curator

Sean Randel – Instrumental Repair Technician

Joel Dunst – Instrumental Repair Technician

OMA Schools

Opening Minds through the Arts has a presence in almost every elementary and many K-8 schools. Some sites have made the commitment to implement the program throughout all their grade levels. These schools are recognized as OMA Gold Schools. Other schools that have a limited OMA presence that places them as Exploratory Residency (ER) School.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

OMA Arts Integration Specialist (AIS)

The ‘Artistic Director’ of the school and a certified teacher through the State of Arizona
OMA Teaching Artist (TA)

A professional artist in an arts discipline and a non-certified instructor

OMA Classroom Teacher

The certified teacher-of-record with whom Arts Integration Specialists and Teaching Artists collaborate to bring OMA to the students

OMA Principal

The ‘Executive Producer’ of the school who collaborates with the Arts Integration Specialist on implementing the vision and maintaining the culture of an OMA School, both OMA Gold and Exploratory Residency (ER).

Professional Learning Communities (PLC)

Each quarter the instructional staff of Opening Minds through the Arts meets in a Professional Learning Community (PLC). These important meetings provide us with the opportunity for enriching, relevant training in arts integration implementation, and district goals, and collaboration/discussion with colleagues from OMA schools.

Instructional Design in the Arts (IDeA)

Immediately after the conclusion of the academic year, the Department of Fine and Performing Arts hosts a week long professional development series, IDeA - Instructional Design for the Arts. Workshops with internationally renowned educators, professional artists, and innovators present interactive learning opportunities that inspire and encourage Fine Arts staff and classroom teachers to achieve greater goals with their students.

Committees & Responsibilities

Some Fine Arts and OMA staff serve on committees throughout the year. These assignments fulfill important roles which vary from 1) the continued development of the program, 2) the creation of innovative instructional materials that support arts integration, 3) the annual OMA Showcase featuring students in OMA programs throughout the district.

The Design Team is a committee of professionals: OMA Arts Integration Specialists, OMA Teaching Artists, Classroom Teachers and Principals. Their aim is to foster the continued growth and development of the overall program. This group maintains OMA’s visible presence in the community and has a direct
effect on the policies and expectations the district has for our learning communities and classrooms through the application of arts integration.

The Showcase is an annual celebration on the first Saturday in May demonstrating student achievement in the arts involving over 300 students K–12 from every corner of the district. This large-scale production features student performances in vocal and instrumental music, dance, visual arts and theatre. For the past several years, the Showcase has followed a creative theme generated by a small committee considering artistic inspiration, social impact and, of course, the WOW factor. Additionally, the production requires multiple committees to ensure its success, safety, and enjoyment of all those who attend and participate.

While the OMA staff members pride themselves as being arts educators as well as artists, there are also a few expectations that you must coordinate for yourself proactively. Updating changes in schedule and managing your personal calendar are but two examples of job related details that are important to share with both your site(s) and the Fine Arts Office. Requesting personal days, submitting sick days, managing travel mileage are all examples of other personal responsibilities that you must learn to maneuver as well. Remember, you will be assigned a mentor by the Director who can assist you. Use this mentor.

**OMA’s Development**

Since its origins in 1999, Opening Minds through the Arts has continued to grow and develop. Scientific based research in the cognitive development of children has forged the skeleton of the program as we see it today. However, each site has different resources and needs, thus creating a unique OMA identity (OMAdentity) for each school. Additionally, as schools grow, the district’s needs change as well which can affect your position in terms of where you go and which classes you instruct. The key here is your flexibility and resourcefulness, because your leadership is ‘instrumental’ to your school. You are the heART of OMA!

**COLLABORATION**

**Planning Process**

The lessons designed by the Arts Integration Specialist often follow the classrooms’ paths and depend heavily on the input of the Classroom Teacher. Structured meetings and/or discussions between the AIS and the Grade Level team make these lessons effective.

**Teaching the Lesson**

OMA instructors always need to lead with their art form throughout the teaching process of arts integration. Whether an AIS or Teaching Artist, the OMA instructor uses his/her knowledge in an arts discipline as a vehicle for delivering the lesson content.
At the end of quarter 1 and quarter 3, please turn in your most refined, successful OMA lesson to Thom Lewis (thom.lewis@tusd1.org) for inclusion in the OMA library of arts integration lessons. A reminder will be sent prior to the submission time.

**Evaluation**

The TUSD Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation Model requires both quantitative and qualitative evidence to capture the range of instructional skills used in teaching and to determine how much students benefit academically from their teachers. The model is comprised of four components: The Danielson Framework, academic growth, the student survey, and teacher reflection. Evaluation is conducted yearly by the Director of Fine and Performing Arts/OMA and/or the base school principal.

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU’RE INTEGRATING**

**Calendars & Schedules**

The district and OMA/Fine Arts have calendars you should always consider in your scheduling. To facilitate this, TUSD uses the tools in Microsoft Office 365 to help you accomplish these tasks.

**Communication, Coordination & Promotion**

There will be several times you must coordinate with site administration, office managers, classroom teachers, site staff, other OMA instructors and parents. You are the public face of OMA.

- **District E-mail and IT Support**
  - If you have any need of tech assistance, call 225-6333 for help.
  - Outlook can be accessed off the server through Mail.tusd1.org

- **Branding**
  - Use the official OMA logo in your email signature.
  - Include your OMA position in your professional bio.

- **Personal Management**
  - Communicate Personal and Sick Leave needs to both your site(s) and the Fine Arts Office.
  - Update schedule changes and turn in mileage to the Fine Arts Office promptly.
  - Mileage forms are found on the Finance Dept. website under Forms. Payment is from school to school or school to LIRC. These forms are turned into Fine Arts/OMA by the 15th of the
following month. Email a copy of your license to Riskmanagement@tusd1.org. Risk Management must have a copy of your driver’s license on file.

☐ Mentors have the answers you need. And if they don’t, they will find them for you.

☐ Never underestimate the knowledge and capacity to address issues that can be found with the Assistants or Director.

RESOURCES

Lee Instructional Resource Center
2025 E Winsett St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

- Opening Minds through the Arts - TUSD
- Fine Arts - TUSD
- Educational Materials Center - TUSD
- ARTSmobile - TUSD
- Language Acquisition - TUSD (they are our neighbors at LIRC)
- Employee Curriculum Resources - TUSD

Glossary

- AIS - Arts Integration Specialist - state certified arts teacher; potentially or a classroom teacher with a strong arts background
- DT - Design Team - see Committees & Responsibilities (pg. 3)
- EMC - Educational Materials Center - incredible and voluminous repository of artifacts, Fine Arts prints, 3D objects, textiles, culture kits, multicultural library, instructional support and reference books on almost anything and MORE
- ER - Exploratory Residency - see OMA Schools (pg. 2)
- IDEa - Instructional Design in the Arts - see Committees & Responsibilities (pg. 3)
- OMA - Opening Minds through the Arts
- PA - Performing Arts/Performing Artist
- PLC - Professional Learning Community - see Committees & Responsibilities (pg. 3)
- TA - Teaching Artist - classified (not certified) teacher, expected to be a trained professional in an arts discipline
- VA - Visual Arts/Visual Artist

Handouts/Printables

In your packet, you will have numerous handouts many of them also headed to your inbox in electronic formats. Please use the resources found in your folder and from throughout our time today to help you as you start your year with OMA.