

## **STANDARDS, BENCHMARKS, AND LEARNING TARGETS**

Although the Missoula County Public Schools' Theatre Arts curriculum was developed to assure that students meet the Montana Standards for the Arts (below) at the appropriate grade levels, MCPS Theatre Arts learning targets were written based on the National Standards for the Arts, which specifically address K-12 Theatre Arts education.

### **Montana Standards and Benchmarks for Arts: Grades K-4**

MONTANA ART STANDARD 1: Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts.  
Benchmarks:

- 1) Students identify their own ideas and images based on themes, symbols, events, and personal experiences.
- 2) Students use a variety of materials and sources to experiment with an art form.
- 3) Students present their own work and works of others.
- 4) Students collaborate with others in the creative process.
- 5) Students describe how a variety of materials, techniques, and processes cause different responses.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 2: Students apply and describe the concepts, structures, and processes in the Arts.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students apply the elements of plot, character, and setting.
- 2) Students identify and apply the techniques to develop scenarios, direct, and act.
- 3) Students perform in ensemble (e.g., live, film, video productions).
- 4) Students perform in classroom or school programs/productions.
- 5) Students identify and perform examples of theatre (e.g., comedy, melodrama).
- 6) Students demonstrate storytelling and creative dramatics.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 3: Students develop and refine arts skills and techniques to express ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use art materials, techniques, technologies, and processes to create general responses.
- 2) Students communicate meaning through the art forms from selected subject matter.
- 3) Students explore potential solutions to a given problem through the Arts.
- 4) Students use mind, voice, and body to create characters and tell stories.
- 5) Students recognize and use stage direction.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 4: Students analyze characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use vocabulary of the discipline to describe a variety of works of art.
- 2) Students describe personal works to others.
- 3) Students devise criteria for evaluation.
- 4) Students recognize a variety of different responses to specific works of art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 5: Students understand the role of the Arts in society, diverse cultures, and historical periods.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students recognize ways in which the Arts have both an historical and distinctive relationship to various cultures (e.g., American Indian) and media of expression.
- 2) Students identify and describe specific works of art belonging to particular cultures, times, and places.
- 3) Students recognize various reasons for creating works of art.
- 4) Students recognize common emotions, experiences, and expressions in art.
- 5) Students demonstrate appropriate audience behavior for the context and style of art presented.
- 6) Students explore their own culture as reflected through the Arts.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 6: Students make connections among the Arts, other subject areas, life, and work.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students identify similarities and differences in the meanings of common terms/elements used in the various Arts.
- 2) Students identify interrelated elements among the Arts and other subject areas.
- 3) Students identify the role of the Arts in the world of work.
- 4) Students identify how art reflects life.

## **Montana Standards and Benchmarks for the Arts: Grades 5-8**

MONTANA ART STANDARD 1: Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts.  
Benchmarks:

- 1) Students create a work from their own ideas and images based on themes, symbols, events, and personal experiences.
- 2) Students select a variety of materials and sources to demonstrate a specific art form.
- 3) Students prepare and/or revise works for presentation.
- 4) Students collaborate with others to make artistic choices.
- 5) Students describe and analyze artistic choices in their own work and works of others.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 2: Students apply and describe the concepts, structures, and processes in the Arts.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students apply the elements of plot, character, setting, and mood.
- 2) Students apply techniques to write, direct, act, and design.
- 3) Students perform solo and in ensemble (e.g., mime, live, film, video productions).
- 4) Students perform in classroom or school programs/productions.
- 5) Students perform examples of theatre (e.g., comedy, melodrama, plays from historical periods).
- 6) Students rehearse, perform, and critique storytelling and improvisation.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 3: Students develop and refine arts skills and techniques to express ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use art materials, techniques, technologies, and processes to create specific responses.
- 2) Students communicate intended meaning based on their own ideas and concepts from other sources.
- 3) Students use improvisation/experimentation to determine solutions.
- 4) Students use scenery, properties, sound, costume, and make-up to communicate locale and mood.
- 5) Students understand and apply stage direction and ground plans.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 4: Students analyze characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and other art works by applying specific criteria appropriate to the style and offer constructive suggestions for improvement.
- 2) Students describe the influence of personal experience on the interpretation of works of art.
- 3) Students develop and apply criteria for evaluating quality and effectiveness of the work of art.
- 4) Students describe and compare a variety of individual responses to works of art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 5: Students understand the role of the Arts in society, diverse cultures, and historical periods.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students demonstrate how history/culture and the Arts influence each other.
- 2) Students identify, describe, and analyze specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places in the context in which they were created.
- 3) Students compare various reasons for creating works of art.
- 4) Students describe how people's emotions and experiences influence the development of specific art works.
- 5) Students demonstrate appropriate audience behavior for the context and style of art presented.
- 6) Students determine the connection of a work of art to societal and cultural change or preservation, including American Indian culture and art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 6: Students make connections among the Arts, other subject areas, life, and work.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students compare and explain how the characteristic materials of each art (e.g., sound in music, visual stimuli in visual arts, movement in dance, human interrelationships in theatre) correlate to similar events, scenes, emotions, or ideas.
- 2) Students utilize interrelated elements among the Arts and other subject areas.
- 3) Students explore vocational and avocational opportunities in the Arts.
- 4) Students identify how works of art reflect the environment in which they are created.

## **Montana Standards and Benchmarks for the Arts: Grades 9-12**

MONTANA ART STANDARD 1: Students create, perform/exhibit, and respond in the Arts.  
Benchmarks:

- 1) Students conceive and create works of art.
- 2) Students demonstrate imagination and technical skill in a minimum of one art form using traditional and nontraditional resources.
- 3) Students select or adapt the elements of a presentational style.
- 4) Students apply artistic discipline (e.g., concentration and focus) to complete a collaborative work.
- 5) Students articulate meaning by describing and analyzing artistic choices in their own work and works of others.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 2: Students apply and describe the concepts, structures, and processes in the Arts.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students apply the elements of character and plot as exposition, action, climax, and resolution.
- 2) Students apply techniques to write, direct, act, design, and produce.
- 3) Students perform solo and in ensemble (e.g., mime, live, film, video productions).
- 4) Students perform in classroom or school programs/productions.
- 5) Students perform examples of theatre (e.g., comedy, tragedy, melodrama plays from historical periods).
- 6) Students rehearse, perform, and critique improvisation and performances.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 3: Students develop and refine arts skills and techniques to express ideas, pose and solve problems, and discover meaning.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students use art materials, techniques, technologies, and processes to create specific products and responses to ideas.
- 2) Students explore and practice skills to enhance communication with consistency.
- 3) Students understand and apply appropriate symbol language to maximize expression in a specific media.
- 4) Students use scenery, properties, sound, costume, make-up, and lighting to communicate locale and mood.
- 5) Students understand and apply stage direction and ground plans.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 4: Students analyze characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students evaluate an art work by comparing and contrasting it to similar or exemplary works of art.
- 2) Students compare and contrast how meaning is communicated in two or more of the students' own works and/or works of others.
- 3) Students refine specific criteria for making informed critical evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of a work of art.

- 4) Students analyze various interpretations as a means for understanding/evaluating works of art.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 5: Students understand the role of the Arts in society, diverse cultures, and historical periods.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students identify and describe the role of the artist in cultures and societies.
- 2) Students identify, describe, and analyze specific works of art as belonging to particular cultures, times, and places in the context in which they were created.
- 3) Students identify intentions of those creating art works, explore the implications of various purposes and justify analysis.
- 4) Students analyze contemporary and historic meanings and emotions in specific art works through cultural and aesthetic inquiry.
- 5) Students demonstrate appropriate audience behavior for the context and style of art presented.
- 6) Students investigate a variety of artworks from resources in the community and analyze and communicate cultural and historical context.

MONTANA ART STANDARD 6: Students make connections among the Arts, other subject areas, life, and work.

Benchmarks:

- 1) Students explain how elements, processes (e.g., imagination, craftsmanship) and organizational principles are used in similar and distinctive ways.
- 2) Students identify connect and analyze interrelated elements of the Arts and other subject areas.
- 3) Students experience the elements of art careers in a professional setting.
- 4) Students analyze how works of art reflect the environment in which they are created.