

## Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Will my student receive the same curriculum as all Eagleview students?
- 2) How is the classroom different from a traditional classroom?
- 3) Is there a set of textbooks that will be used just for AAA?
- 4) Will my student still have to take TCAP?
- 5) How will the success of the program be measured?
- 6) Can students drop from the academy once they start?
- 7) Can students join the academy after the year has started or for the next year?
- 8) Will the Academic Arts Academy increase class sizes or decrease options for other students?
- 9) If this program is so good, why can't all students have the benefit of it?
- 10) Will this program support my student beyond middle school?
- 11) How is the staff selected and trained?
- 12) Do AAA students participate in fieldtrips with others teams (high trails, art museum, etc)?
- 13) When do AAA students mix with traditional Eagleview students?
- 14) Do students outside of the Eagleview attendance area have transportation to school?
- 15) Can AAA students participate in sports and clubs?
- 16) How has this program been marketed?
- 17) What makes this program "special"?
- 18) If my student needs a math class that isn't on the arts team, what happens?
- 19) What is the boy to girl ratio in the academic arts program?
- 20) How will TAG student have their needs addressed within the Arts Academy?
- 21) How does the orchestra class work?
- 22) How is Eagle Time different in AAA?

### **1) Q Will my student receive the same curriculum as all Eagleview students?**

A- All students who attend Eagleview Middle School benefit from instruction that is grounded in Colorado state standards. Over the past four years all core content areas have been developing curriculum maps to insure appropriate coverage of standards and to eliminate any instructional gaps. The AAA curriculum is developed using the state standards, curriculum maps and the innovation of the arts academy teachers. Rigor is not diminished; rather, students often retain more information because they help create the learning experience.

### **2) Q How is the classroom different than the traditional classroom?**

A- The Academic Arts Academy is an opportunity for both the teachers and students to learn, create, and explore while engaging in more hands-on creative learning that allows students to connect and personalize their learning. These classrooms are active, alive, fun, yet academically challenging.

### **3) Q Is there a set of textbooks that will be used just for AAA?**

A- Textbooks do exist for programs like AAA. We are exploring options, but we are committed to creating a curriculum that is non-traditional, active, hands-on and not bound to textbooks, worksheets and overheads.

**4) Q Will my student still have to take TCAP?**

A- All students in public schools in Colorado are asked to take TCAP. We are excited for our students to take the test so that we can gain insight into the strengths and possible areas for growth of all our students, programs and classes.

**5) Q How will the success of the program be measured?**

A- We will be using a variety of measures to determine success including data from TCAP exams, information from our formative assessments (Scantron), results from the Climate Survey and data gathered from beginning/end of the year questionnaires for AAA students and staff.

**6) Q Can students drop from the academy once they start?**

A- We are asking that students think hard about their commitment to the program before applying, because we are asking for a yearlong commitment.

**7) Q Can students join the academy after the year has started or for the next year?**

A- Students will have the opportunity to join the academy, if space is available, for the next school year.

**8) Q Will the Academic Arts Academy increase class sizes or decrease options for other students?**

A- The Academic Arts Academy will not reduce exploratory options for the traditional students. In fact, the increase in student number will most likely result in increased opportunities for all students including Orchestra. Similarly, on average, having the academy at Eagleview will reduce class sizes because we will be hosting Eagleview students as well as students from around the district.

**9) Q If this program is so good, why can't all students have the benefit of it?**

A- We do believe that this program will benefit all Eagleview students not just the academy students, but we do have the responsibility to develop this program in a way that allows for growth and change from year to year. Also, the reality is that not all students would enjoy or benefit from an integrated arts curriculum. We know that all students have different needs and that they possess different strengths and we work very hard to address the needs of each of our students.

**10) Q Will this program support my student beyond middle school?**

A- The design of the academy is to not sacrifice rigor for arts. Therefore, we believe that engaging our students and challenging them to personalize their learning will help them to gain a deeper understanding of the content which will serve them well in their high school career and beyond. Additionally, AAHS has an arts pathway which should be a good compliment to the work that we are doing in the academy.

**11) Q How is the staff selected and trained?**

A- Staff members have been selected and hired based on their expertise in their content areas as well as their passion for the arts and their experience in developing arts infused activities, assignments and assessments.

**12) Q Do AAA students participate in fieldtrips with others teams (high trails, art museum, etc.)?**

A- Yes. AAA students are as much a part of the Eagleview community as any student. In addition, opportunities brought to EMS by AAA (African Acrobats, Performance Troupes) are shared with other parts of the student body as appropriate.

**13) Q When do AAA students mix with traditional Eagleview students?**

A- AAA students are on their own team and have core classes together. AAA students mix with their peers in exploratories, lunch, halls, etc.

**14) Q Do students outside of the Eagleview attendance area have transportation to school?**

A- Students outside of the Eagleview attendance area have the opportunity to take D20 transportation to Eagleview. However, these students need to catch the bus at their home school and then ride to Eagleview each day.

**15) Q Can AAA students participate in sports and clubs?**

A- All Eagleview students are encouraged to take risks, try something new and join a club or sport.

**16) Q How has this program been marketed?**

A- We use many formats to get the word out about the Arts Academy such as parent information nights, Special Delivery messages, newsletter articles, television spots on a local cable access channel, communication through our feeder elementary schools, flyers and posters.

**17) Q What makes this program “special”?**

A- The Academic Arts Academy is the only middle school integrated arts program in D20 and one of few in the US. Its balanced focus on core academics, the arts, expression and meeting or exceeding district and state standards for achievement, make our program truly unique.

**18) Q If my student needs a math class that isn’t on the arts team, what happens?**

A- Because of the limitations of our program design, with respect to being able to offer different math levels, by grade, some students have to access their math classes off of the arts team. Based on student needs, we create the most inclusive program possible to keep as many students on the arts team for all classes.

**19) Q What is the boy to girl ratio in the academic arts program?**

A- In the initial year we had more girls than boys enrolled in the program with a ratio around 3 to 1 (girls to boys). However, each year we have moved to a more balanced team, and we currently a ratio of 3 to 2 (girls to boys).

**20) Q How will TAG student have their needs addressed within the Arts Academy?**

A- TAG students receive the same benefit within the Academic Arts Academy as they would in any program or classroom with respect to services including having one “enriched” language arts class per team.

**21) Q How does the orchestra class work?**

A- Orchestra meets during the last period of the day, which we call Eagle Time. Eagle Time is a building wide intervention time designed to provide additional opportunities for enrichment and support for students in a variety of academic and exploratory areas.

**22) Q How is Eagle Time different in AAA?**

A- Eagle Time in AAA is an intervention class as it is on all teams at EMS, but AAA Eagle Time classes are taught in the same arts integration style that is used for core classes.