



Intuitive Arts at Manzanita

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January 2014

At Manzanita School, our arts program emphasizes the role and application of *improvisational techniques* in creative expression. In music, dance, theater, and visual art, we build both technical skill *and* imaginative capacity. Through instruction in improvisational techniques and methods, we foster intuitive imagination, understanding that displays of artistic technique alone do not foster innovation. Skill development and technical competence are also important, because imaginative expression without skill has limited aesthetic reach. Many of the great achievements in art, science, technology and thought have blended creative imagination with technical skill. Imagination invokes newness and originality, while technical skill will render these expressions with refinement and form. At Manzanita, we seek to cultivate artistic expression that is both skillful and imaginative, giving special emphasis to improvisation as the most direct means for building intuitive imagination and creative capacity. In our specially outfitted music lab at Manzanita School, all students learn to play electric pianos in small groups, experiencing ensemble performance and creative improvisation. We also offer classes in dance, theatre, and visual art, with an emphasis on improvisation.