

Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts

County: Osceola

4201 Rhododendron Ave, Kissimmee, FL 34758

Phone: (407) 343-4500

Fax: (407) 343-4519

School Website: <http://www.pe.osceola.k12.fl.us/>

Principal: Sheri Turchi

Email: turchis@osceola.k12.fl.us

Superintendent: Melba Luciano

Email: lucianom@osceola.k12.fl.us

Phone: (407) 870-4600

School Board President: Jay Wheeler

Email: wheelerj@osceola.k12.fl.us

PR Representative: Dana Schafer

Email: schaferd@osceola.k12.fl.us

About Poinciana Academy:

There is immense support from the school's administration of arts integration. Both the principal and assistant principal are clear in their articulation about their commitment to arts integration. The principal, Mrs. Turchi, was integral in transitioning the school from a traditional school to a choice school with an arts integration focus. She further demonstrated her passion for this educational model by relating how she now expects new hires to be "on-board" with arts integration as a contingency for employment at her school. Further demarcating the administrative passion for arts integration is the pervasive evidence of student artwork throughout the school. Another important piece of evidence that points to administrative support is the consistent and pervasive commitment to intense arts- integration professional development.

The evaluators said the school has an abundance of parental and community support. Parents interviewed expressed sincere appreciation for the education their children are receiving at Poinciana Academy of Fine Arts. Many parents specifically discussed the difference in their children's academic performance as well as positive changes in their attitudes towards school - and all attributed this to an arts-specific focus at the school. The school has made specific overtures to developing several business partners

(Solivita, Gaylord Palms, etc.) and continues to recognize the importance of marketing the positive attributes of the school.

It was evident through observation and through specific conversation that the students valued the education they were receiving at P.A.F.A. They spoke to how arts integration helped them “focus” and gave them incentive to work more diligently in their grade-level classes. They denoted how important “essentials” were to them – essentials are their art-block classes – and they stated how they recognized the commitment required to be able to participate in these classes.

Despite their young age, the students had a remarkable grasp of how arts integration benefitted them. Whether it was dance, music, or graphic arts, the students were able to speak to how the skills learned in these disciplines carried over to their grade-level classes. They also recognized how arts integration improved the instruction (and their learning) in their regular (non-arts) classes.