

After School Arts Program

The GoggleWorks A.S.A.P. is a year-round after school arts curriculum collaboratively developed with the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and the Reading Area School District that integrates age appropriate academic skill sets (reading, writing, math, and science) with basic visual design concepts and vocational instruction to build the knowledge, skills and experience needed for careers in digital technology.

Goal

Professional artists with studios at the GoggleWorks will instruct elementary and middle school youth in a year round after school and weekend media and arts educational program designed to prepare students to meet the increasing need for technology trained art professionals.

Objectives:

- *Safe Places/Sense of Belonging* : to increase students' sense of belonging, and students' feeling that they have safe, positive, and creative environments in which to participate during available free time
- *New Experiences*: To provide opportunities for new experiences in order to increase participants' knowledge, skills, and possible interest in art as a career field
- *Respect/Trust*: to increase students' trust and respect for other students, adult mentors, artists, and other authority figures
- *Teamwork/Communication*: to increase student ability to work cooperatively with other students, and communicate effectively in a group
- *Art Education*: to increase students' ability to make creative and positive choices through self expression

Outcomes:

- Students learn basic visual art and digital technological skills that will enable them to achieve higher level job placement.
- Students increase their understanding of the arts through education in a broad based design and media arts curriculum.
- Through an interdisciplinary series of classes, students will explore the application of both standard and emerging technologies to gain an understanding of digital media applications and a basic level of computer literacy.
- Students increase their academic skills in all areas through interactive arts based activities.
- Adult mentoring through long term relationships in arts that may continue year round and over a number of years as the student progresses through more advanced levels of training.
- Students receive training in problem-solving.
- Students receive training in interpersonal communication skills between the youth and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members.
- Students receive training in conflict resolution education.

- Students learn to identify and deal positively with feelings and emotions.
- Students complete the program with a sense of self-confidence and self-respect.

Evaluation

The A.S.A.P. program will document attitudinal changes of the participating students' interest in, reactions to, and progress as they learn to understand and create visual art. By comparing standardized test scores, attendance records and pre and post tests responses, the impact of the program on these students will be examined. Follow-up evaluations of the project will be comparatively analyzed relative to student drop out rates, interest in school, interest in media arts and career choices. Evaluation methods include:

- Records of attendance and projects completed;
- Portfolio documentation of completed work that illustrates skills and knowledge gained;
- Student journals that stress the importance of writing literacy;
- On-going critiques of work by instructors, invited artists and peer review;
- Pre and post testing of skills according to Evaluation Standards and the Protective Factors Scale
- Analyzing academic performance comparing GPAs before and after the completion of the project;

- Photographic documentation of all program areas;
- Student and staff feedback through interviews and questionnaires.

How ASAP Helps Kids...

As funding for the arts in public school decreases, children in areas of economic poverty are deprived of access to the arts. The ASAP program provides a safe, positive, and creative environment for children through access to excellence in the arts. Students achieve the ability to make creative and positive choices through self-expression.

What Happens at ASAP?

Classes are conducted in painting, drawing, sculpting in clay, glass fusing, photography, creative writing and digital arts. The faculty of highly-trained artists works closely with students to encourage the exploration of the arts through hands-on projects.

Who Participates?

Participants in ASAP are students from kindergarten through middle school. The first session enrolled approximately 250 students, primarily Hispanic, from four area schools. The program is designed to grow to reach 525 students per session, up to 1575 children a year.

How ASAP Is Transforming the Community... As youth participate in the re-building of the community through art and feel appreciated for their work, they will be more likely to stay in school, avoid risk-taking behavior and become contributing adults.

How YOU Can Help...

Community members are invited to help in various capacities through volunteer opportunities, donations of supplies and equipment and monetary contributions.

Attention Businesses! Did You Know...? ASAP is a Pennsylvania approved "innovative educational program" and the GoggleWorks is a designated "Educational Improvement Organization" which makes us eligible to receive EITC funding. The EITC or Educational Tax Credit program allows businesses to receive tax credits for contributions to certain educational facilities. For more information on how to make a contribution to the ASAP Program, please contact the GoggleWorks administration.

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The GoggleWorks is also pleased to partner with the Wyomissing Institute of the Arts and the Greater Berks Food Bank for helping to make ASAP a success.