

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT  EDUCATION

# Fine Arts Family Resources

## Dance ○ Music ○ Theatre ○ Visual Arts

The resources in this guide can help families support continuity of learning in the arts, as well as use the arts as a means of processing and expressing feelings, moods, thoughts, and emotions.

### Websites to Explore

#### Theatre

**Broadway Educators** The site offers free materials to schools, teachers and anyone interested in learning more about a specific Broadway show, professional theatre, or theatre as a communicative art form.

**TheatreFolk: Physical Exercises and Physical Performance Exercises** These exercises listed can be adapted to distance and online learning opportunities.

**Careers in Theatre** This site allows students to explore theatre careers, and even take a quiz to help match skills with careers in theatre.

#### Music

**Instrument Tutorial Videos** Tutorials for piano, recorder, tin whistle, and more.

**Careers in Music** Students can explore music careers.

**Responding to and talking about music** This resource helps frame questions to encourage critical thinking when listening to music.

**PBS: Music** Encourage students to perform, analyze, and appreciate Music with resources that explore music from various time periods and cultures.

#### Dance

**Video: Exploring Dance: Movement, Space, and Poetry** Students in grades K-2 can explore poetry through dance.

**The Elements of Dance** This website allows families to explore the elements of dance.

**African Dance Lesson** Try this 5-minute African dance video lesson before exploring many other media resources from the Kennedy Center.

**The Dance Performances That Have Gone Online:** *Dance Magazine* has collected online dance performances for students and families to view at home.

#### Visual Arts

**The Art Career Project** Students can explore careers that involve art and design skills.

**Media and Interactives from the Kennedy Center**  
Explore videos and interactive media for dance, music, theatre, and visual arts.

**The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** Encourage students to describe and discuss artwork while they explore the collections.

# Exploring Fine Arts as a Family

## Dance

Families can view and discuss what they see and feel when viewing dance performances. Families can also support students by encouraging students to stay active and healthy, and use dance as a way to process and express moods, feelings, and ideas.

## Music

Families can listen to different types of music together and talk about what they hear. Families can encourage students to use music as a means to process and express moods and emotions.

Families can help students develop a routine that includes practicing their instrument, if they play one. It is important that music students continue to play and sing in order to build and maintain skills and to encourage their music “muscle-memory”. Practice time should be productive with specific, obtainable goals in mind, but singing or playing an instrument also needs to be fun and enjoyable! The following links provide helpful tips for parents to encourage their child and to create a productive practice schedule within a positive environment for making music.

- **Off The Record: Practicing With Purpose**

This site is designed to help encourage learners that are more independent in instrumental music. The IDEA model will help students focus on quality practicing and creating their own strategies for success.

- **Tips for Supporting Young Musicians**

Outside music lessons may not be possible right now, but the tips listed here can apply to every student’s practice and offer advice to parents on how to encourage your child’s efforts.

- **Practice Tips for Parents of Young Musicians**

- **Practicing Choral Music**

## Theatre

Families can view plays and performances together, discuss what they notice and like about performances, and draw connections between performances, student interests, and current events. Families can also encourage students to put on simple skits, play dress-up, and tell and act out stories.

## Visual Arts

Families can explore art and culture sites, and discuss the art with their student. Families can encourage student creativity by making art supplies available and encouraging students to create as a means of expressing thoughts and feelings. It is helpful for adults to avoid statements like “I am not creative” or “I cannot draw” in order to encourage students take risks and develop creative thinking and drawing skills.