The Arts at John Muir

Our community music time takes place two afternoons each week. It is a time for our entire community to gather together and sing.

The arts are integrated throughout the academic curriculum, units of study and outdoor education curriculum. Drawing, painting and other art forms are used to support and express learning experiences.

In addition to the integration of arts, the 3rd – 8th grade students participate in our Art Focus program. Volunteers and staff members teach art electives on Wednesday mornings.

Title 1 and Special Education Services

Children at John Muir Magnet school receive support as needed for English Language Development, Reading, Writing, Math and Speech from our ELL Teacher, our Special Education Teacher, our Speech and Language Teacher, and our Title 1 Reading and Math Specialist. Our Title 1 and Special Education Assistants also provide individual and small group support for designated students.

Parental Involvement

Much of the success of our school is dependent on parent volunteers:

Garden, Fundraising, Courtyard, Field Trip Preparation, Events, Field Trips, EarthTeach, Scrip Sales, Art Focus, Classroom Help
John Muir Tenets

Constructivist Philosophy
- Children learn new concepts in relationship to previous knowledge and experience
- The construction of knowledge by the child leads to comprehensive authentic learning

Natural Science
- Interaction with the natural world supports academic growth
- Children build deep relationships with the natural world through continuous interaction with purposefully selected outdoor sites
- By empowering students through on-going, holistic experiences with an outdoor campus, children develop a sense of their place in the natural world
- Stewardship becomes a part of children’s lifelong relationship with nature

Community
- Positive social relationships are essential to a successful learning community
- Small schools enhance student comfort and learning
- The behavior of children indicates their emotional comfort and the community’s health

Teaching and Learning
- The teacher’s art is to create a stimulating atmosphere and participate as a learner
- School-wide units of study foster an awareness of one’s place in the global community
- Multi-age classrooms and our K-8 community provide opportunities for students to learn from each other

Field Study Venues and Field Trips

Youngers (K-3)
Lithia Park, Eagle Mill Farm, North Mountain Park, Klamath Bird Observatory, Ice Skating, TouVelle State Park

Olders (4-8)
EarthTeach, North Mountain Park, North Medford Planetarium, Rogue River Keepers, TouVelle State park, Collaboration with SOU Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program, Restoration work with Lomakatsi, Mt. Ashland, 8th Grade Float, 8th Grade Backpacking Trip, Leave No Trace Backpacking Trip, Deer Creek Outdoor School, Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Ashland Watershed Unit field trips: Bend, Klamath, Upper Rogue, Pacific Ocean.

Academics at John Muir
The teaching staff at John Muir follow the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Math. During Professional Learning Community (PLC) time, teachers look at the standards, student work, and formative assessments to guide teaching and student learning.

School-Wide Units of Study
At any given time, all students at John Muir will be learning about the same general theme at varying levels of rigor. Teachers plan K-8 articulated curriculum and assessments, cross-age work, content reading buddies, cross-aged field trips, and older/younger research projects. Examples of School-wide units are Forests, Birds, and Earth & Space.

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