



**SMARTS**  
STUDENTS MOTIVATED BY THE ARTS

Ohio One Building  
25 East Boardman Street, First Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330-574-2787



# SMARTS



**YOUR COMMUNITY ART SCHOOL  
SINCE 1997**



**SMARTS, Students Motivated by the Arts**

[www.SmartsArtSchool.org](http://www.SmartsArtSchool.org)

Becky Keck, SMARTS President, [bkeck@SmartsArtSchool.org](mailto:bkeck@SmartsArtSchool.org)



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*"To be an artist is to truly see," Marites Eldred, SMARTS Community Teaching Artist.*

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## SMARTS Education Philosophy

SMARTS believes every person is an artist, an individual who creates, innately possessing a creative mind and personal voice, a desire to express their perspective and experiences, a need to be inspired or have purpose, and a need to have enjoyment in life. Art is the work of an artist, and is any original work that conveys meaning or a message and provides a creative outlet for the artist.

SMARTS aims to develop student artists by teaching them to think, create, and view their world with the perspective of an artist. SMARTS allows students to develop as artists in the following ways: 1) cultivating personal identity as an artist; 2) developing technical skills in the arts; 3) building relationships with mentoring artists; 4) collaborating with peer artists from diverse backgrounds; 5) experimenting, exploring new arts mediums, and taking risks; 6) nurturing inspiration and curiosity; and 7) having fun in the arts.

SMARTS believes that teaching, itself, is an art form, and SMARTS supports teaching artists to be lifelong learners of pedagogy and their arts content by helping them develop as educators through instructional coaching, implementation of state standards, and professional development. SMARTS believes it is important for teaching artists to collaborate both as artists and educators in order to acquire new skills, inspiration, and to continue to find fulfillment in their art.

SMARTS believes effective teaching for the arts must: 1) be safe, accepting, and supportive in relationships and environment; 2) be taught by practicing artists who follow best practices for teaching and learning in their discipline; 3) build students' technical, cognitive, and social-emotional skills; 4) teach students to study art, listen to other artists, respond to art, create art, and present their art; 5) emphasize the process, not the product; 6) emphasize growth, not expertise; and 7) encourage a sense of community and equality.

SMARTS believes the arts are necessary to 'teach the whole child.' In addition to providing early training in the arts, SMARTS is an advocate for and provider of arts integration, an approach to teaching in which a core subject and an arts discipline are paired throughout a lesson so that students meet learning objectives with both areas simultaneously. Research has shown that, because students learn through a creative process, arts integration benefits students by promoting long-term retention of content, increasing student motivation, preventing learning loss, and engaging diverse or underachieving learners. Arts integration benefits teachers by reducing time spent re-teaching, providing opportunities for co-planning and team teaching, and reinvigorating their passion for teaching. SMARTS believes arts integration accommodates every learning style and reimagines how learning occurs in the classroom.

## SMARTS Mission

SMARTS community art school provides access and early training in the arts for our region's PK-12 youth with a focus on underserved populations. SMARTS engages public and private organizations, schools, and artists in cooperative projects designed to enrich our community, promote student achievement, inspire self-discovery, and impact cultural and academic literacy through fine and performing arts.

## SMARTS Vision

SMARTS community art school will continue to be the leader in quality arts education in our region, state, and nation by serving our community's youth. SMARTS will provide quality arts education, and promote our region's arts and culture by establishing partnerships, working with public and private organizations, and representing the diversity of our community.

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### SMARTS Free Public Programming

SMARTS classes cover five arts disciplines – visual art, music, dance, theater, and creative writing – and take place in fall, spring and summer sessions. Classes are held in-person, after-school and on Saturdays in SMARTS' facility on the first floor of the historic Ohio One Building in downtown Youngstown. SMARTS also offers online classes through Virtual SMARTS. Approximately 800 students have taken SMARTS classes since 2017, and they have come from 44 cities in eight counties in Ohio and Pennsylvania. But now with Virtual SMARTS, you can be a SMARTS student from anywhere in the world! See other exciting activities on Virtual SMARTS like arts challenges, videos of artists in action, and previous Virtual SMARTS class lessons by visiting [www.virtualsmarts.weebly.com](http://www.virtualsmarts.weebly.com).

#### Be a SMARTS Student!

1. Complete an application to take *free* quality arts classes by visiting [www.SmartsArtSchool.org/classes](http://www.SmartsArtSchool.org/classes).
2. After the application, you are automatically accepted! You're now in our SMARTS student database to receive text messages and emails about all upcoming classes.
3. View our current class catalog to see our offerings and plan which ones you would like to enroll.
4. When classes are available, you will receive a message to enroll. All SMARTS classes are free to all students, open to the public, and offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up quickly!
5. To enroll in a class, click on the link you are sent. Click "Enroll Now" on the class you want to take and complete the enrollment form.
6. Check your email for confirmation and dates and times of your SMARTS class, and re-read the SMARTS Student Admissions Policy! Call SMARTS if you need help.
7. Come to SMARTS for your class and be an artist!

#### About SMARTS

SMARTS, Students Motivated by the Arts, is a community art school that provides classes in visual arts, music, dance, theater, and creative writing for our region's PK-12 youth with a focus on underserved populations. SMARTS hires and prepares community teaching artists with professional training and oversight so that they can provide quality arts-focused teaching and learning with lesson plans that follow state standards. Since 1997, SMARTS classes have been *free and open to the public* and all students are accepted through a simple application process. SMARTS partners with schools, school districts, and youth programs throughout the region both during and after school by providing them with arts classes, workshops, and hands-on activities for their students. SMARTS partnerships allow us to reach deep into the community, engage students who may not have any or enough access to the arts, and to generate revenue in support of our future.



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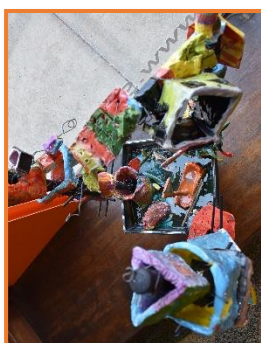
### SMARTS Community Programming

SMARTS partnerships occur in over 40 locations in the community, serving over 2,500 students and adults each year. These partnerships support our Mission by connecting to schools and youth organizations through programming and community events, helping us to reach more students who may not otherwise have access to us. Some partners contract SMARTS for our services helping also to generate revenue to support our mission. Our goal is that SMARTS Teachers work seamlessly within our partnerships to meet the goals of our partners and adapt to each organization's culture of learning through a long-lasting relationship.

SMARTS has established relationships with many different businesses to bring opportunities to SMARTS students, such as creating a mobile piece of collaborative student art on a new vehicle from Sweeney Chevrolet Buick GMC or coaching interior design students to create a remodeling plan for Goodwill Industries staff work room. SMARTS also appears at community events with hands-on arts activities for children of all ages to support organizations and to connect with families who may be interested in bringing their children to SMARTS after school or joining Virtual SMARTS.

#### How does an organization become a SMARTS Community Partner?

Organizations such as schools, youth organizations, businesses, government entities, non-profits, and churches may request programming in the community or programming at SMARTS by making contact in person, by phone, or by completing an Event Request form located on the SMARTS web site: [www.SmartsArtSchool.org/events](http://www.SmartsArtSchool.org/events). The SMARTS President manages these relationships and requests for services, and together with the Education Director, a proposal for services is created, customized, and implemented to meet the goals of the organization.



### SMARTS Premier Programs

In some cases, SMARTS is the visual art and music teacher year-round. In addition to providing a part-time teacher in the arts, SMARTS provides four premier programs to schools to engage students in the arts and help reach underachieving students.

#### SMARTS Arts Integration (AI)

Arts Integration is the process of teaching a project-based lesson through a creative process where state standards and learning objectives in both the arts discipline and a core subject are met simultaneously. This is an approach to teaching that

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is heralded by the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington D.C. Arts Integration teaches the ‘whole child’ by helping students combat learning loss, increase long-term retention of knowledge, and give alternative and underachieving learners core content instruction through a creative process in ways that match their learning styles. The SMARTS Arts Integration model also serves as a collaborative, ongoing professional development model that provides classroom teachers with new strategies to reach their students and reinvigorate their passion for teaching as they work with the SMARTS Teacher. SMARTS Teachers will collaborate with classroom teachers to adapt lessons in their curriculum from a traditional instructional approach to an arts-integrated instructional approach and be responsible for teaching all or portions of lessons. The content of the lesson remains the same, but the instructional approach changes to include the arts as a vehicle for the content. The SMARTS teacher is the arts expert and the classroom teacher is the content area expert, and they will meet regularly for planning to determine the best model for co-teaching and to determine how many lessons the SMARTS teacher will be responsible for per unit, according to the partnership’s approved schedule with SMARTS.

## **SMARTS Beats and Empowers**

SMARTS Beats is a percussion-based learning program for PK-12 (and up to the age of 21) students with developmental and behavioral challenges. SMARTS Beats uses hand drums and other percussion instruments to engage students in lessons that emphasize social emotional learning, fine motor development, and arts integration approaches. Students may drum in response to comprehension questions from a text or practice addition and subtraction by counting with the drums. Students in this program improve with foundational SEL skills such as making eye contact, taking turns, listening for instructions, and more. Originally developed as a pilot project in 2011, SMARTS Beats centers on four goals:

1. Promote academic learning through unconventional/alternative techniques.
2. Increase musical knowledge, understanding, and appreciation.
3. Foster a sense of teamwork and community.
4. Develop students’ sense of pride, confidence and satisfaction.

SMARTS Empowers extends the learning of SMARTS Beats to additional arts disciplines - visual art, dance, and theater - and was piloted in 2019. SMARTS Empowers integrates arts education into students’ daily classroom activities, emphasizing social emotional learning, fine motor development, and arts integration approaches. Students may practice crossing the midline in dance choreography that asks students to make shapes and lines with their arms. In visual art, students practice finger dexterity as they create original art from a variety of mediums. Students in theater work on making eye contact in an activity where they must pretend to pass an imaginary ball. Students in this program improve with foundational SEL skills such as left and right coordination, following directions, mirroring and imitating patterns, decision-making, and communication. The goal of this program is to empower students through art forms and connect their classroom learning to these positive experiences. SMARTS Beats and Empowers follows the same model using the knowledge and curriculum we have built since 2010. SMARTS Empowers:

1. Promotes academic learning through unconventional/alternative techniques.
2. Increases knowledge, understanding, and appreciation in visual arts, music, dance, theater, and creative writing.
3. Fosters a sense of teamwork and community.

## **Early SMARTS**

The SMARTS teachers will teach daily during the designated ‘SMARTS lesson time,’ following prepared SMARTS curriculum designed specifically for PK students. This curriculum meets learning objectives for the American Library Association’s 6 early literacy skills as well as Zero to Three’s 7 early math skills. SMARTS has developed its own 7 early arts skills to help children gain skills necessary to be creative thinkers and problem-solvers by age 5 and to pursue any arts discipline. These skills are: 1) color knowledge; 2) fine motor practice; 3) rhythm sense; 4) curiosity, exploration, and patience; 5) courage and confidence; 6) creative play; and 7) arts experiences. Early SMARTS incorporates research and best practices from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University and Reggio Emilia educational philosophy to offer an experience in the arts that allows early childhood students to create art by *playing* with art. These lessons will engage students in visual art, music, dance, or theater, depending on the teaching artist present.

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## SMARTS Arts in Non-Arts Spaces (AINS)

Discover an artist at work in a place you wouldn't expect! All SMARTS Teachers come to SMARTS as artists and receive training to teach their art while also earning income as working artists. Some own ceramics studios, perform and record original music, dance for companies, act in community theater, and have published books. In this program, SMARTS Teachers will come to your school or organization as an artist and will demonstrate their art live in a place students wouldn't expect. The purpose of this program is to expose students to careers in the arts, see an artist at work live, have an opportunity to ask them questions about their art, and to learn about SMARTS *free* public classes. During the demonstration, the teacher may be visited by classrooms of students and teachers, administrators, students passing by in the hallway, or eating lunch. The school or organization will choose the location(s) where the arts demonstration will take place. The artist will be prepared to answer questions about SMARTS, what it means to be an artist, and their own career as an artist. Students will be invited to complete a SMARTS application to take *free* classes after school and on Saturday mornings at SMARTS in visual art, music, dance, theater, and creative writing by visiting [www.smartsartschool.org/classes](http://www.smartsartschool.org/classes). This is a demonstration of art making, this is not a performance.



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SMARTS **5** ARTS DISCIPLINES

VISUAL ART | MUSIC | DANCE | THEATER | CREATIVE WRITING

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