



***Town of Gilbert  
Schools of Distinction Award for  
Outstanding Achievement in Arts Education***

Town of Gilbert Mayor, John Lewis, recognizes the critical link between quality arts education and a student's ability to achieve in school and in the workplace. Positive and supportive relationships develop among students, teachers and the school community when they are involved in creating, performing or responding to works of art.

The Mayor wants to recognize arts programs that have done an outstanding job of making the arts an essential part of education in their school, district and the community. By creating the ***Town of Gilbert Schools of Distinction Award for Outstanding Achievement in Arts Education***, Mayor Lewis celebrates Gilbert's rich and diverse cultures by showcasing the success stories of students and schools. Any school located within the boundaries of the Town of Gilbert is eligible to be nominated.

The winning schools' applications will be forwarded to the Arizona Alliance for Arts Education for consideration for State level recognition. The top five schools from around the State will be sent on to the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts National Schools of Distinction in Arts Education Award** selection committee for consideration.

To be considered for a Schools of Distinction Award, the school's arts education program should have **two or more** of the following characteristics:

- The school should teach all the arts (music, visual arts, dance and theatre) as specific disciplines in school, afterschool or a combination of both environments.
- Meets curricular goals by integrating the arts into subject areas, meeting the Arizona academic standards as well as the arts standards.
- The program should use creative approaches to learning, provide appropriate learning environments for teaching the arts, and recognize that the arts are critical and essential to education.
- The program should provide opportunities for parental involvement in the educational lives of their children through hands-on, creative, arts-based activities.
- The program should provide students with various opportunities for learning about other cultures through the arts, enabling them to explore differences in ways that are devoid of cultural bias.
- The program should provide community connections that build value and respect for the community by offering students diverse experiences beyond the classroom.



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**Nomination Form**

Nominations should be submitted to the person listed below using the forms provided. Please type or print.

**Nominated School**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_ School District \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Levels \_\_\_\_\_

Magnet School: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_      Integrated Arts School: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Press Contact (Name and Number) \_\_\_\_\_

The deadline for submitting nominations for the ***2011-2012 Town of Gilbert Schools of Distinction Award*** is **Friday, February 3, 2012 (postmarked deadline)**.

**Contact Information for Individual Submitting Nomination**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send nominations by e-mail, fax or USPS to Larry Whitesell, Manager, Higley Center for the Performing Arts, 4132 E. Pecos Rd., Gilbert, AZ 85295; [larry.whitesell@husd.org](mailto:larry.whitesell@husd.org); Fax 480-279-7590.



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**Nomination Questions**

*Please complete on separate pages, not to exceed a total of six (6) pages.*

1. Please provide a brief description of how arts education is an essential component of your school's curriculum both in-school and afterschool. Are the arts integrated with several subject areas or taught as specific subjects?
2. Explain how the program being nominated creates and uses creative approaches to learning and provides appropriate learning environments for teaching in the arts (please include information on the roles and numbers of arts specialists).
3. Please give specific examples of the opportunities provided for parental involvement in the educational lives of the children through hands-on, creative arts-based activities.
4. How does this program provide students with opportunities for learning about other cultures through the arts?
5. How does this program link arts education to the community and provide community connections that offer students diverse experiences beyond the classroom?
6. Please provide whatever academic ranking(s) is/are available that serve(s) as testimony to how your students are achieving in comparison to other students in the district, state, and nation. The comparison of your students to others in the state is of particular interest. Also, please include information about the enrollment and the demographics of your school.



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**Video Consent and Release**

I hereby consent to the use of my name, voice reproduction and all video images of me from the DVD/videotape for educational, informational, developmental, promotional and archival purposes. I hereby discharge the Town of Gilbert and its licensees, assignees and contractors from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of the aforementioned DVD/videotape.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

School Official's Title \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



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**Nomination Checklist**

- ✓ Completed Nomination Form
- ✓ Completed Nomination Questions
- ✓ One DVD and up to 10 color JPEGs on CD of students' work, exhibits, class activities and/or performances (examples of all four arts disciplines are preferred). Preferred DVD examples include footage of teaching and learning in addition to student performance.

Please note: DVD's may not be more than 20 minutes in length.

- ✓ Video Release Form (if applicable)
- ✓ Letter from the Principal which includes a statement regarding the school's academic ranking in comparison to other schools in the state (required).

Principals should also indicate in their letter if they are a member of NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals), and/or NASSP (National Association of Secondary School Principals), and /or their state affiliate organizations. (Membership is not required for your school to receive the award.)

- ✓ A paragraph (150-300 words) which could be used for public distribution that provides a summary description of the school's arts programs.