



BUCKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ARTS FOCUS

Where Creativity, Academic Excellence, and Self-Confidence Thrive

At Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School, a Portland Public School located in inner Southeast Portland, an award-winning staff and a dedicated family community work together to create a learning environment focused on educating and nurturing the whole child—intellectual, social, emotional, physical, creative, and artistic. Buckman students experience in-depth and meaningful academic learning supported by the arts, numerous performance opportunities, and growth in self-esteem.

"There's a quirky, creative spirit at Buckman Elementary that can be explained by only one thing: art... [At Buckman] art's not an added extra; it's the key to the curriculum." —Jennifer Anderson, *Portland Tribune*

Learning Through the Arts

- Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School offers an innovative *arts-integrated academic curriculum*, based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences philosophy, from kindergarten through fifth grade.
- Students attend *high-frequency arts classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art*. Buckman students internalize their learning through these varied forms of creative self-expression.
- Buckman's arts-integrated programs *increase students' self-esteem, absorption of academic material, and understanding and acceptance of the self*.



Photo by Mark Stein

"Portland's coolest elementary school." —*Portland Mercury*

Exceptional Academics

- Buckman rates "Outstanding" in all areas measured by the Oregon Department of Education through its School Report Cards (2008)
- Buckman's awards include the 2008 Creative Ticket School of Excellence Award for outstanding achievement in arts education from the Oregon Alliance for Arts Education, in conjunction with the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network.
- Buckman students may go on to pursue careers in the arts, but they are just as likely to use their creative-thinking skills and love of learning in medicine, science, social outreach, or technology careers.

Academic learning at Buckman is far from ordinary. Students may learn by...

- Drumming a rhythmic pattern to grasp a math concept
- Writing and performing a play to internalize historic events
- Choreographing a dance to demonstrate geologic patterns
- Creating their own cubist or expressionist paintings



Photo by Mark Stein

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Buckman = Arts for All

- All students at Buckman participate in the arts programs at the school.
- Buckman is *open for admission to all elementary students in Portland Public Schools*, through the school district's transfer policy.

"The arts help you to be happy, and you need to be happy to learn." —**Buckman student**



Photo by Fred King

"I don't think I could have gotten [my acting career] going like this, if I hadn't gone to Buckman." –Buckman alum **Briauna Simmons-Yager**, and performer with Oregon Children's Theater and other companies

"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up."
–**Pablo Picasso**

What else is special about Buckman?

- Three widely respected arts specialists (Visual Arts, Drama/Music, Dance)
- Award-winning staff and instructors
- Student choral, dance, and marimba performance groups; visual art exhibition opportunities
- Three full-day kindergarten classes
- Average class size of 26 to 30 (in 2009-2010)
- On-site before- and after-school care
- SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) after-school and community activities
- Vegetable and flower garden
- Swimming pool on site
- Fully equipped computer lab on site
- Physical education classes
- Library with extensive collection, staffed by library assistant
- Diversity—students from every corner of the city, ethnic and social group, and socioeconomic background are welcomed
- Dedicated, creative parent and volunteer community
- Strong support from Portland community members, artists, musicians, and civic leaders

"At Buckman, instead of just reading about history, we get to do plays about history!" –**Buckman student**

Buckman is the right choice for families seeking an exceptional, well-rounded education that includes creative expression, critical thinking, and the arts in every aspect of the curriculum.

To receive more information about Buckman, visit the school, or volunteer at the school, please contact:
Brian Anderson, Buckman principal, banderson@pps.k12.or.us
Tracy Enbysk, Buckman secretary, (503) 916-6230

Upcoming Tours:
Every Tuesday at 9:30am, from February 2 through March 9, 2010
Plus, March 16 at 6pm

Kindergarten Roundup for Neighborhood Families:
Wednesday, February 3, at 6:30pm

Buckman Arts Focus Elementary School
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(503) 916-6230 • www.buckmanelementary.org



Photo by Julie Keefe