"Right now, art is essential. Science is going to get us out of this — but art is going to get us THROUGH this."

– Mo Willems

Visual Art Education can be easily adapted to socially distanced classroom and sanitation requirements. Now more than ever, it is vital to maintain visual art programs in this pandemic during this time of collective trauma. Engagement in art helps learners develop coping strategies, create a sense of control and empowerment, and build resilience.

Ideas for Social Distancing:

- Continue to teach fundamentals as outlined by the Utah State Core Curriculum.
- Rearrange the visual art classroom with individual staggered desks instead of tables or use clear acrylic space dividers on tables to ensure safe distancing.
- Extend passing periods/time between classes to sanitize high use surfaces.
- Have the visual arts teacher rotate from classroom to classroom (as opposed to students rotating) or have the visual arts teacher Zoom into the homeroom or general education classroom.
- Create a traffic flow map enforced by directional tape on the floor to decrease static motion and increase ease of social distance.
- When able, have students and teachers wear masks.

Ideas for Sanitation of Art Materials:

- Create individual/personal student kits of supplies/tools rather than communal supplies.
- When possible, purchase one-use supplies such as pre-packaged air dry clay.
- Make class-specific kits of supplies and clean between uses to decrease the number of materials in circulation and make cleaning materials easier.
- Consider rotation of supplies to ensure supplies are sanitized between each usage.
- Ensure that no physical materials are transported back and forth between school and students’ residences – especially in a hybrid teaching situation.
- When financially and physically feasible, consider not re-collecting consumable materials.
- Avoid activities where student-to-student contact is required.
- Have the visual arts teacher sanitize and wipe down communal materials and surfaces between classes.
- Avoid having students assist with distribution and collection of materials, except to dispose of their own waste.
- No rags, sponges, or reusable cleaning supplies that cannot be sanitized between uses.

Visual Art Education can be cost-efficient by purchasing or utilizing simple materials usually found at home (paper, pencils, crayons, glue, scissors); using recycled or found objects; using other subjects’ materials (ex: protractor); or requesting donations from parent organizations, businesses, or grants.