

August 2001

Middle School Art Teachers,

In 1998 the Texas Legislature passed into law the replacement of the *Texas Essential Elements* with the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)* as the State's official curriculum document. This instrument establishes the standard by which "all teachers teach" and "all students perform." It specifically directs that Art Education in Texas be taught as an integration of four basic stands. These are:

Perception - the taking in and processing of information

Creative Expression - the expressing of ideas through the making of original artworks

Cultural Heritage - the understanding of art history and culture as records of human achievement

Informed Judgment - the responding to and evaluating of artworks by self and others

In preparation for a curricular restructuring, the IISD art department, in association with the District's curriculum department, devoted three years to the investigation of the most current and effective practices in art education. This guide integrates the findings of this intensive study and the four strands of the TEKS into a scope and sequence that outlines the learning that must occur in Art 6, 7, and 8 in Irving schools. This scope and sequence also correlates with the District's middle school art textbooks, *A World of Images* and *Art: Images and Ideas* by Dr. Laura Chapman.

A scope and sequence specifies the basic and essential content that must be taught. However this guide is not intended to be prescriptive. You are

encouraged to exercise creativeness in your approach to teaching the concepts outlined here.

It is with excitement and enthusiasm that we present this curriculum guide to you. A curriculum guide is a living document. Its effectiveness is dependent upon continuing evaluation and revision. We solicit your input and encourage your involvement as we strive to maintain a standard of excellence in the IISD art program.

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