



Mission Statement

The mission of The Castle is to partner with teachers in Putnam County schools in grades K-12 to invigorate the curriculum by means of an integrated-arts approach. Through collaborative partnerships, teaching artists, and volunteer efforts, The Castle offers free programming that draws on visual arts, movement, music, theater and writing to nurture self-expression and encourage essential developmental skills for lifelong learning.

Contact Us

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Castle Arts

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"A Creating Community in the Public Schools"

"The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create."

--Barack Obama

Reciprocal Gifts

"In my own philanthropy and business endeavors, I have seen the critical role that the arts play in stimulating creativity and in developing vital communities....the arts have a crucial impact on our economy and are an important catalyst for learning, discovery, and achievement in our country."

-Paul G. Allen, Co-Founder, Microsoft

Wouldn't it be nice if learning were all about spontaneity, exploration, joy and unpredictability? If tests weren't the primary measure of academic success? What if you had the opportunity to transform this test-driven culture and impact young lives, while learning more about your own areas of study and gaining valuable experience in public speaking?

The Castle aims to foster a learning community based on the premise of reciprocal gifts. We believe that everyone in our community is stronger when we invest in our public schools. By bringing together talented individuals and curious students in a space of mutual respect and high expectations, we celebrate the capacity for shared discovery, self-expression and creative thinking.

Inside the classroom or behind the scenes, you can make a difference!



"The Castle workshops represented for me the moment when I truly understood what I was learning about, and why I was learning it."

--Kartik Amarnath, DPU '13

The Castle provides workshops that offer opportunities for participants to develop 21st Century Skills through the arts.

What are 21st Century Skills?

- Collaboration
- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Dealing with ambiguity and complexity
- Integration of multiple skill sets
- Ability to perform work across disciplines

"I loved the opportunity my students had to spend time with the younger students in all of their funky grooviness!"

--Rebecca Alexander, Professor of Education, DePauw University

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved?

Everyone has a place at the Castle! Are you taking a class that ties in to a topic or subject matter covered in the public school curriculum? Talk to your instructor to see if you can develop a workshop as an alternative assignment. Thinking about a career in teaching? Use this as a chance to hone your skills. Are you a member of an arts organization? Consider enlisting a group to share your talents with younger students.

What if I'm not an artist?

Part of our goal is to expand the term "artist" to include creative thinking of all types. Do you enjoy hands-on learning, thinking through multiple lenses, making an idea come to life? Do you believe that learning is all about getting messy, being curious, and sharing your curiosity with others? If so, you are indeed an artist, and we welcome your involvement!

What does a typical session look like?

Sessions run approximately 45 minutes. Volunteers generally lead three to six sessions per day, during the school day. Volunteers work alongside of program coordinators to develop collaborative and creative workshops that draw on multiple media that supplement various areas of the curriculum.