

MEASURE G PARCEL TAX INDEPENDENT CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Memo

To Measure G Parcel Tax Independent Citizens Oversight Committee

From OUSD Staff

Meeting Date October 20, 2025

Subject Additional OFASS Information

Document Combined OFASS History

Attachments: Combined OFASS History

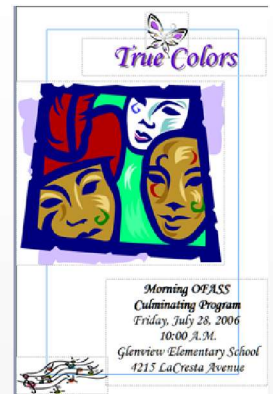


Oakland Fine Arts Summer School
Morning Program, Grades K-5
Final Culminating Performance
Thursday, July 29, 2004



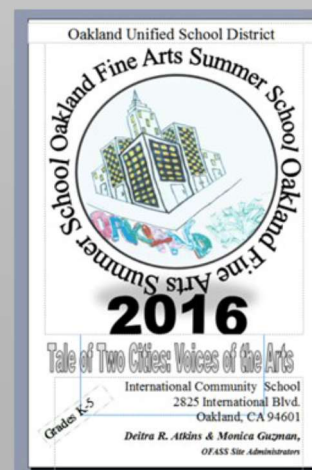
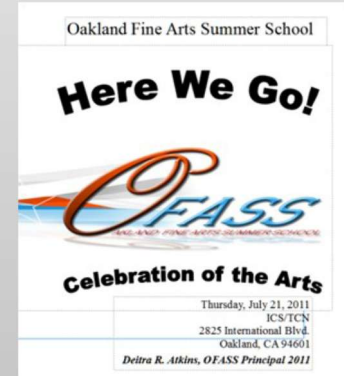
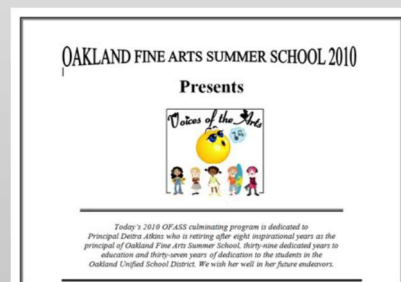
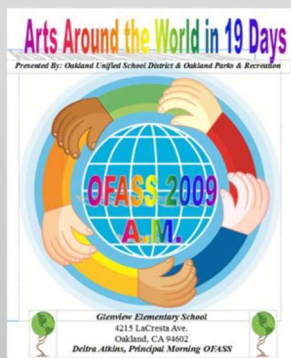
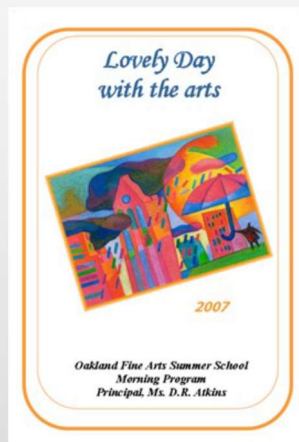
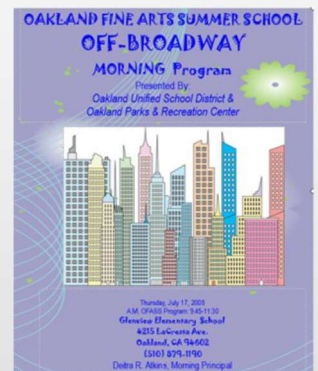
"Oaktown Land of Oz"

Morning OFASS 2005
Lincoln Elementary School
225 - 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 879-1330 / 1339 (fax)
Deitra Atkins, Principal



Oakland Fine Arts Summer School 2003-2016

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OAKLAND, CA



Summer of	OFASS Themes From the Past
2003	<i>Treasures that Enrich Our Lives – The Arts in Education</i>
2004	<i>Options: Anything is Possible</i>
2005	Oaktown Land of Oz
2006	<i>True Colors</i>
2007	<i>Lovely Day (with the arts)</i>
2008	Off-Broadway
2009	Arts Around the World in 19 Days
2010	Voices of the Arts
2011	Here We Go! Celebration of the Arts
2012	Unknown
2013	Unknown
2014	Unknown
2015	Feeling Good
2016	Tale of Two Cities: Voices of the Arts
2017	The Gift Inside of Me
2018	Pizzazz & Style: Come on Down to 7th Street! Oakland in the 1940's and Beyond
2019	OFASS Museum of the Arts
2020	(No OFASS due to COVID-19 Pandemic)
2021	My Story Through the Arts
2022	Arts Around the World United and Proud
2023	Expressions of New Beginnings Through the Arts

Principal: 2003-2011 / Ms. Deitra Atkins

Principal and/or Director: 2015-2023 / Ms. Deitra Atkins

Between the years 2003-2010, enrollment ranged from 240-260 students each summer.

2011 enrollment was 340 students.

2012-2014 New principals due to Ms. Atkins' retirement. The decision was made to lower enrollment.

2015 and 2019 enrollment ranged from 190-215 students per summer.

2020 No OFASS due to COVID-19 Pandemic

2021 OFASS with restrictions: Masks were worn by staff and students. Meetings, assemblies, and performances were done virtually.

2022 OFASS restrictions minimal: Masks were optional. Assemblies still virtual. For the first time since COVID, the culminating program was in person.



Welcome to Oakland Fine Arts Summer School's History Summary

This album is dedicated to the numerous individuals that make this program possible each summer.
A special thank you goes to the citizens of Oakland that value the arts for our children
and who have approved Measure E and most recently Measure G funds
to support the visual and performing arts for Oakland's children.

OUSD ARTS NEWS

September - October 2003

Volume 2, Issue 1

OAKLAND FINE ARTS SUMMER SCHOOL

This summer was cause for celebration. Students from Oakland's public schools and Oakland at large were able to attend the Fine Arts Summer School for yet another year. The Oakland Fine Arts Summer School (OFASS) is a collaboration between the City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District. This year's program was held at Glenview Elementary School nestled in the foothills of a quiet Oakland neighborhood. Deitra Atkins, principal of Glenview Elementary School and also principal for the morning portion of the Fine Arts Summer School, made certain to recruit some of the Oakland school district's most talented arts educators.



Students perform during the culminating event for the Fine Arts Summer School's morning program.

Dance, drama, music and visual arts instruction were provided for the students. Filmmaking was also offered in the curriculum. There was a charged atmosphere as children immersed themselves in arts activities. A walk through the hallways revealed an abundance of colorful artwork on display. Wonderful relief sculptures adorned the walls on the first floor. These works of art were done by Doug Calderon's students from the City's afternoon program. Those who ventured upstairs saw the intriguing mixed media work of Susan Walton's students.



Deitra Atkins, Principal of Glenview Elementary School and the Oakland Fine Arts Summer School introduces members of her staff during the final assembly held this past July 24, 2003.



A drama performance.

The Fine Arts Summer School has been a collaborative effort between the City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District since 1995. However, in June of this year, it appeared as though the Oakland Unified School District's (OUSD) visual and performing arts educators would be unable to participate in the Fine Arts Summer School Program. Over the past decade OUSD teachers have partnered with artists employed by the City of Oakland. The morning program was taught by teachers from the District and the afternoon program was conducted by artists hired by the City. However, this year's budget crisis resulted in a virtual death sentence, hindering the school districts ability to participate in the

MAYOR SUPPORTS FINE ARTS SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM

program. There was no money to hire District arts educators to provide instruction during the morning sessions. Fortunately, the school district had allies in the City government. Former school district Director and now City Councilwoman Jean Quan urged Mayor Jerry Brown to provide funding needed for the morning program. Mayor Brown responded above and beyond the call of duty by channeling funds into the morning program. According to the District's former Arts Program Manager Anisa Rasheed, the Mayor provided \$70,000 for the program. This made it possible to place an OUSD principal, several District arts teachers and other arts specialists in the morning program that would have otherwise been cancelled. Mayor Brown's

investment in the morning Fine Arts Summer School Program proved to be a sound one. The visual and performing arts work produced by students provided tangible evidence of the program's success. In fact, according to Rasheed, the culminating assembly and performance for this year's morning program was "the best yet".

The Fine Arts Summer School Program represents a long standing partnership between the City of Oakland and the Oakland Unified School District. The value of the program is evident in the creativity that is manifested through the students' work. Thanks to the City, and Mayor Brown and Jean Quan in particular, that partnership was preserved for another year.



Mayor Jerry Brown at the Fine Arts Summer School's morning program assembly and performance held at Glenview Elementary School this past July.

OFASS HISTORY

The Oakland Fine Arts Summer School was started nearly a decade ago according to Denise Saddler, principal of Chabot Elementary School. Saddler, who then served as City School Coordinator for the City of Oakland, observed that both the City and the Oakland Unified School District had separate arts summer school programs. Seeing an opportunity to consolidate efforts, Saddler, in collaboration with Jennifer Koney of the City Parks and Recreation Department and Shirley McDonald of the Oakland Unified School District's summer school program, forged a partnership that would last years. According to Saddler this partnership resulted in a number of benefits. First and foremost, students benefited from the union by being able to enroll in an all day program that included lunch and a very comprehensive coursework offering. Prior to the partnership, students had to choose between one program or the other. They were only half-day sessions, conducted at different locations and had no lunch provided.

Parents benefited by the partnership also by having some of their day care concerns alleviated, especially for primary aged children. The City and District benefited by being able to "eliminate duplication of efforts" according to Saddler. Operating costs were reduced as City and District personnel shared the same facilities.

Jennifer Koney, Supervisor of the City of Oakland's Parks and Recreation Department, recalls when the City and District joined forces.

According to Koney, "Originally the program was developed with the Mayor's Office as the Oakland Performing Arts Camp during the spring break of 1992 in response to the Oakland firestorm. The City joined efforts with the

School District in 1995. Key figures involved in the inception included Jean Quan, Mayor Elihu Harris, Michael Morgan, Denise Saddler, Pat Holston, Alton Jelks and Shirley McDonald. This collaborative program has served over 2500 children with high-quality art instruction and exposure to creative expression since its origination. By combining an art-based summer school program in the morning with a hands-on arts studio program taught by professional artists in the afternoon, students in elementary grades are able to take 4 weeks of full-day arts programs at one site each summer."

Koney reflected, "... some visionaries finally decided it is better to work together and serve more people with higher quality programs than to compete." Perhaps Koney's words will prove to be both prophetic and instructive for insuring the survival of the OFASS program in the future.

"... some visionaries finally decided it is better to work together and serve more people with higher quality programs than to compete."

Additional history notes from Deitra Atkins recalling March or April 2003:

When OUSD was taken over by the state and Dr. Ward came on board, all district summer school programs ceased. Anesa Rasheed, who was then the district's Program Manager for the Visual and Performing Arts Department, [now headed by Phil Rydeen] asked me to be the principal of OFASS if funding could be found since she knew of my overwhelming love of the arts. She also knew that I had run a successful OFASS program in 1995. Anesa was able to get the help of Jean Quan and Ignacio De La Fuente who approached then Mayor Jerry Brown to provide the financial backing for the a.m. program. The City of Oakland and Port of Oakland came up with the money that year. The following year when I was soliciting funding, I met with Dr. Ward and later with Louise Music who said that I should go before the Measure E Committee to ask for funding. Then OUSD Board Member Kerry Hamill(sp?) informed me of the meeting date of the committee and to my surprise I was placed on the agenda one day before the meeting (quite unusual, but Dr. Ward approved the last minute addition). After sitting through an almost three-hour meeting, and being the second to the last presenter, the majority of the funding was approved. Oakland Parks & Rec agreed to cover the remaining costs so that the quality of the joint programs would not suffer. It has been approved and funded in this manner each year since that time. (written 2/21/2009)

Thank You's and Appreciations

As an administrator, I have been blessed to work with a group of dedicated, committed, and exceptionally talented faculty and staff during these nineteen days of the morning OFASS program. I pray that each of you will continue the journey of enriching the lives of our children through the joy of the arts and by keeping the arts alive in our schools.

Much Peace and Love to You All,
Deitra Atkins

Thank you to Yolanda Brown for performing a one person juggling act of clerical duties between two morning summer programs.

Thank Yous to:

Custodial Staff – Idelfonso Dominguez and Karen Shivers

<u>Student Volunteers</u>	<u>Parent and Community Volunteers</u>
Florence Wilson	Candace Kim
Ebony Donley	Terry Kim
DeVonna Jacobs	Sybil Cobb
Tiye Barlow Jones	Laneva Sweet
Jason Harrell	Robin Barlow-Jones
Michael Moore	Quinese Atkins
Jeremy Bryant	
Derrick Bailey	
Jasmin Sumpter	
LaDonna Seals	

Acknowledgements to Our Supporters of the Morning OFASS Program

Anne Campbell, Mayor's Office
Jean Quan, Oakland City Council Member
Ignacio De La Fuente, City Council President
Libby Schaaf, Legislative Aide
Gary Yee, OUSD Board Member
Liz Baham, Gibson & Associates
Brenda Knight, Community Relations – OUSD
Guillermina Gutierrez, Principal AM-Academics
Jennifer Koney, Parks & Rec
Kathleen McPherson, OFASS-PM Principal, Parks & Rec
Gerald Wright, OFASS –PM Assist Director, Parks & Rec
Liz Washington, Parks & Rec
Linda Young, Parks & Rec
Doug Taylor, Parks & Rec
Maryanne Lamb, Parks & Rec
Miss Teish & Diane Ferlette, Storytellers
Carl Nickolas, Musician
Janice Reid, Choir Assistant
Juan Shivers, OUSD AV Department
E.W. Wainwright, African Roots of Jazz

OFASS 2008

Senator Don Perata supports summer learning opportunities
for all Oakland youth.



Congratulations OUSD and Oakland Park & Rec for another successful Oakland Fine Arts Summer School!

I believe summer programs are vital for all youth. I have been a champion for schools and youth during my entire career as an Alameda teacher, Alameda County Supervisor, State Assemblyman, and State Senator.

If you want to join me in the fight to make sure programs like OFASS and other summer learning opportunities continue to exist, please visit: www.senate.ca.gov/perata.

I look forward to hearing from you.

-Don

Oakland summer arts school rare treat for kids

Jill Tucker, Chronicle Staff Writer

Sunday, July 12, 2009



[More...](#)

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San Francisco Chronicle
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OFASS 2009

Walking into Oakland Fine Arts Summer School feels like stumbling across a fabled lost city of gold in the middle of a trackless jungle - you hear about places like this, you hope to see one, but you never expect to find it.

Yet here it is, in the heart of Oakland, the kind of place that should have succumbed long ago to the storms of budget cuts and apathy, but somehow survived.

For 19 days this summer, 260 children from all walks of life converge on Glenview Elementary School to do art in all its forms. For free.

Almost everywhere else in California, summer school has been canceled or severely restricted. And art, well, that's a rare bird in schools during any season. Yet paint and music have flowed out of the Oakland fine arts program every summer since 1992.

One morning last week, as the fog burned off over the East Bay hills, a swinging first-grade rendition of "Route 66" clashed with a Congolese tune drifting out of another room and the Mexican national anthem from a dance class down the hall. Martial arts grunts flew out of the multipurpose room, and the toots and hoots of missed notes on musical instruments bleated from upstairs.

A rare experience

It was quieter in nearby portable classrooms where the rooms were filled with the cross-generational school smell that comes from the combination of tempera paint and white craft glue.

Glenview stands in stark contrast to the vast majority of public schools that sit empty and silent during the summer months.

While many a California native over 40 can remember warm days spent in widely available summer school, programs now typically focus on students needing remedial classes or more rarely, gifted children.

Glenview Principal Deitra Atkins, who also oversees the summer program, walked from room to room providing some impressive background vocals on "Route 66."

"It's raising awareness and appreciation of the arts," Atkins said. "So many schools don't even have an arts program."

The summer instructors come from various walks of life. Some are teachers, others are consultants - often artists of one kind or another. On the playground, for example, renowned jazz drummer E.W. Wainwright watched over recess near sculptor and painter John Broussard...

E-mail Jill Tucker at jtucker@sfgate.com.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/07/12/BA0418LS55.DTL> (Complete Article can be found here)

This article appeared on page C - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle

http://www.contracostatimes.com/rss/ci_18508683?source=rss

Oakland arts program helps children discover their creative side

By Katy Murphy

Oakland Tribune

Posted: 7/21/2011 12:00:00 AM PDT

OAKLAND -- The Cesar E. Chavez Education Center would have been a lot quieter this summer if Oakland voters hadn't passed a school parcel tax in 2008. No whimpering sounds of beginning trumpet, no teachers calling out counts, no drumming.

A free summer program dedicated to the arts is a rare find; these days, school districts are even cutting back on such bare essentials as credit recovery courses for high school students. But Oakland has managed to keep the doors of its Fine Arts Summer School open -- not with general funds from the school district or city, but with \$62,000 from a local tax levy that voters approved in 2004 and renewed in 2008. The San Leandro-based **Jair Foundation** has also supported the effort, providing staff and equipment.

"The citizens of Oakland do value the arts, and they don't want to see it compromised," said **Deitra Atkins**, a retired principal who has run the program since 2003.

Unlike many free programs, children are eligible to attend the summer school regardless of how much money their families have. As long as a child is of elementary school age and lives in Oakland or has a parent who works in the city, he or she can participate. And, although it's run by the school district, children from private schools are welcome to take part as well (though public school children have priority).

This year, the school district moved the program from Glenview Elementary School to the Fruitvale-area campus shared by Think College Now and International Community School. It drew more than 300 children from 60 public, private and parochial schools. The half-day, four-week program usually serves about 250, but Atkins said she admitted everyone who applied.

"This year I just could not say no," she said. "Parents need a quality summer program for their children, so I wanted all of them to participate."

One morning this month, children in one classroom practiced the South African "Can Dance" under the tutelage of jazz drummer E.W. Wainwright while those in the circus arts class learned how to safely support a classmate in a pyramid pose.

In a kindergarten classroom, while painting collages of a robot, 5-year-olds Fallon Bozman and Jada Sherry decided -- officially -- to become friends.

Fallon said she has enjoyed meeting kids from other schools. But, she said, "It's about learning, too."

The children will demonstrate what they've learned in a final performance Thursday at 2825 International Blvd. The 10:30 a.m. show is open to the public.

Read Katy Murphy's blog at IBAbuzz.com/education. Follow her at Twitter.com/KatyMurphy.

OFASS 2016

Oakland is a unique city of diversity,
filled with the energy of many cultures.
A glimpse into the day and night life of Oakland
will provide an opportunity for you to experience
Oakland's Tale of Two Cities through the artistic
presentation of Oakland's gifted and talented
children. Yes, it is a positive side of them that
is seldom exposed through the media.

We welcome you to sit back and enjoy
Oakland Fine Arts Summer School 2016's
Tale of Two Cities: Voices of the Arts.

Most sincerely yours,

Deitra Atkins

(born in Oakland, product of Oakland schools,
with a proud eleven year history as principal of
Oakland Fine Arts Summer School)

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Oakland Fine Arts Summer School Morning Program Administration and Staff, we would like to thank each person, each organization, and the voters of the City of Oakland that helped to make this program possible.

Special Thanks and Acknowledgement

City of Oakland Measure G
Oakland Reads Summer Reading Mini Grant

Oakland Unified School District:

Antwan Wilson – Superintendent

Monica Guzman – Principal ICS

Julie McCalmont, Renee McMeam, Fillmore Rydeen, Carole Taylor,
Peter Mummert, Max Robinson, III, Moyra Contreras, Heather Palin,
Aiyana Mourtos, Vanessa Brooks

OFASS Youth Assistant Volunteers: Eli Streich, Zalika Bryan,
Anese Atkins-Henesley, Joao Lewis-Lima (Former OFASS Students),
Lady Jones, Fatou Bintou Sokhna, Nanette Sy, Adrianna

Performance Day Volunteers: Alicia Beltran, Oscar Mejia, Jing Liu,
Sarah Liu, Jessica Neignor

Community Support: Quiana Canada/Jair Foundation, Karis Griffin, Tamika
Hodges and Brandon Christian/Oakland Parks & Recreation(OPR),
Brenden Anderson/Videographer, Aaron Patterson/Musical Technician,
Eric Londgren/Eric Longdren Photography

Teachers-on-Call

John Broussard, Abed Rahman, Rachel Repanshek, Michael Williams

OFASS 2016 Instructors

Quinese Atkins (Ms. Q)/Modeling & Drama,

Zakiya Brooks/Dance & Support,

Carolyn Himes/Dance & Drama, Tarika Lewis/Set Design,

Myrtha Muse/Dance & Drama,

Alison Streich/Instrumental Music,

Rosalyn Van Hook/Choir,

E.W. Wainwright/Spirit Team & Drumming,

Susan Walton/Visual Arts

Custodians:

Kevin Mitchell, Ann Lee, Kasandra Riley, John Mares, Thi Huyen

Campus Officer/SSO: Claudette Ziegler

Office Staff: Zulma Garfias-beltran, Laverne Kaho'okele

Site Administrators:

Monica Gruzman, Principal
Deitra Atkins, Program Director



Information for Measure G Committee 9-15-2025

ADDENDUM

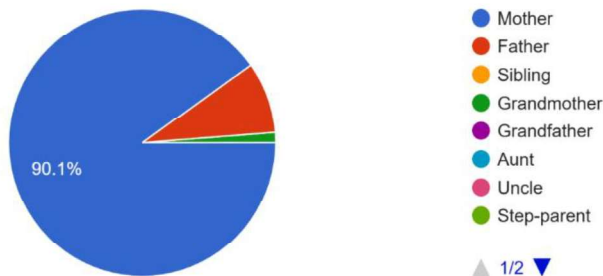
The Oakland Fine Arts Summer School (OFASS) brings to life the kinds of “dream classes” we all imagined—giving students unique opportunities in the visual and performing arts that inspire creativity, confidence, and community.

Below is a glimpse of outcomes from OFASS 2025:

Excerpt from Parent Survey/Evaluation Results

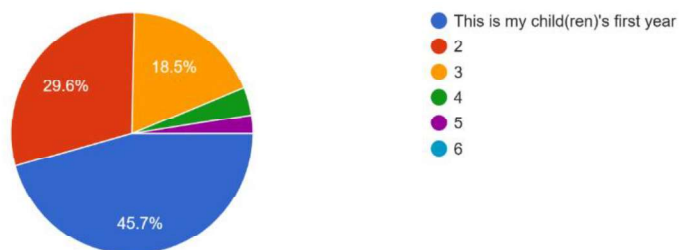
Person completing this form:

81 responses



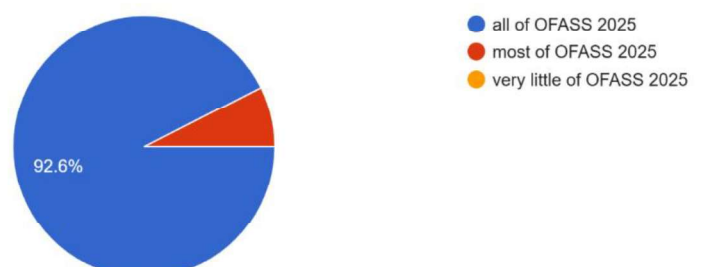
How many years has your child participated in OFASS (counting this year)?

81 responses



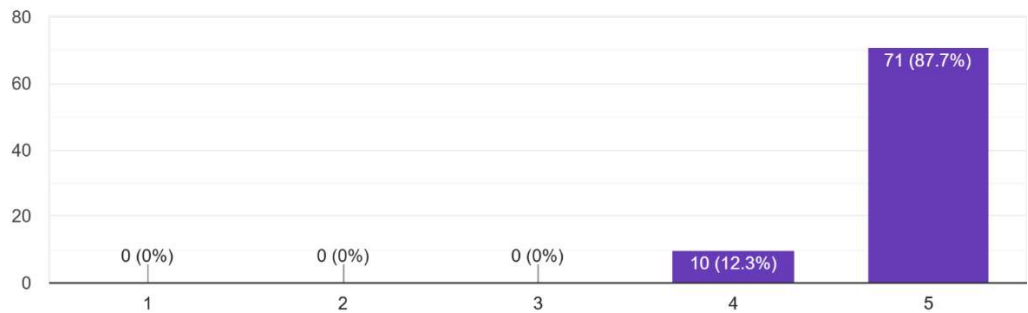
My child completed:

81 responses



Communication before the beginning of OFASS kept me informed and provided opportunities for me to communicate with administration in advance of the program's start date.

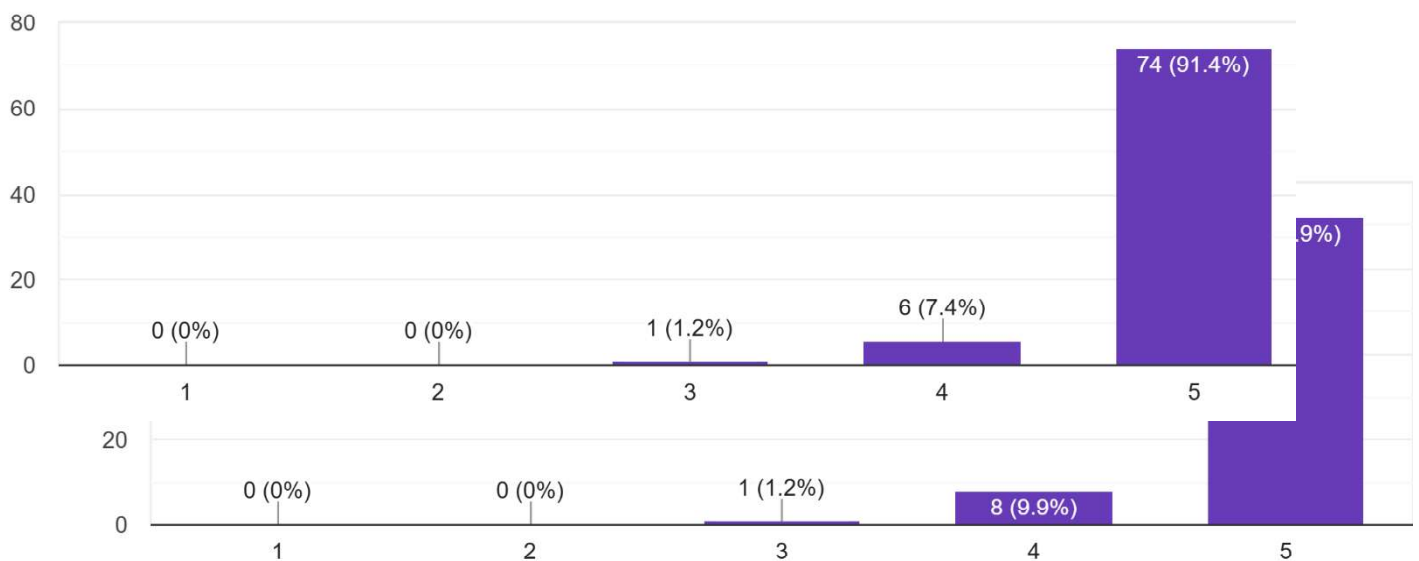
81 responses



I attended the virtual Mandatory Parent Meeting before the start of OFASS 2025.

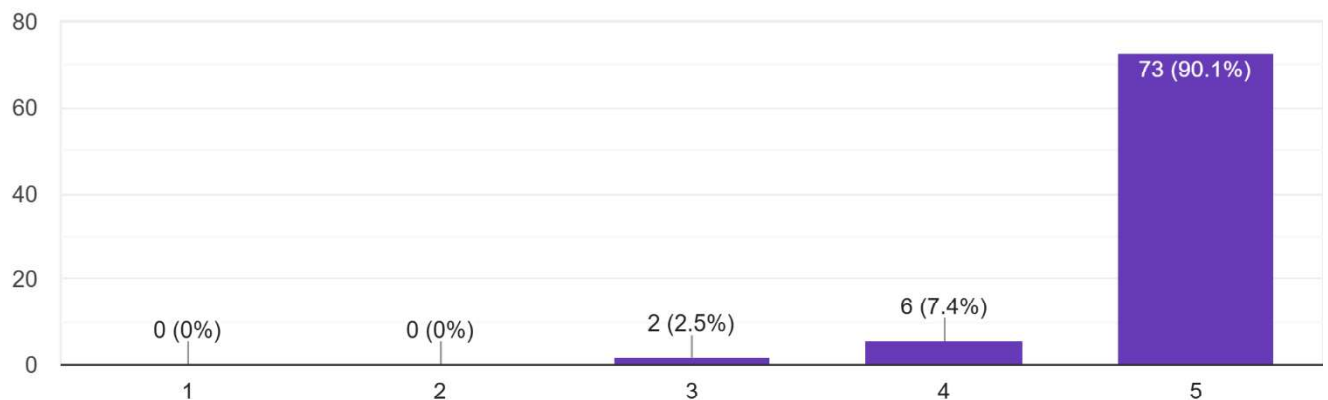
As a parent, I felt welcomed when making contact with OFASS staff.

81 responses



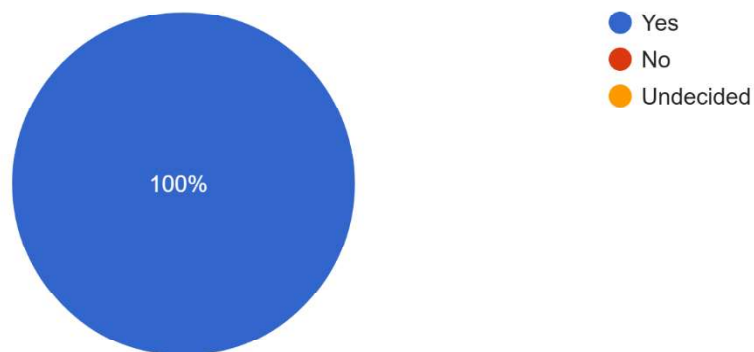
Administration and staff were effective in implementing an exciting performing arts program.

81 responses



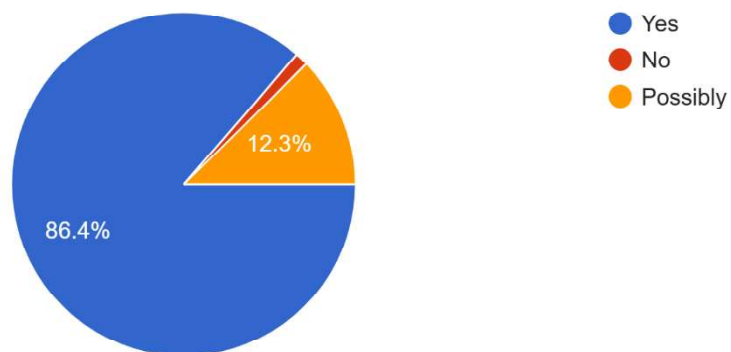
I would recommend this program to others.

81 responses



Would you be interested in performing arts opportunities similar to OFASS during the school year or after 5th grade?

81 responses



Sample parent comments from OFASS 2025:

Please give a quote about the OFASS 2025 program that you would like to share. 81 responses

1. This program is amazing!
2. This program is unique and special and needs to be preserved!
3. You all are amazing! Accomplished so much in just a few short weeks!!!
4. It was wonderful to see my child and others have the opportunity to exercise so much creativity in so many different ways during a summer program. I have never seen this breadth of arts in a summer program before.
5. We look forward to next summer's OFASS camp
6. It was truly inspiring to see children come together over four weeks to learn dance, music, visual art, martial arts, and more, then showcase their talents in such a joyful and powerful performance. The OFASS 2025 program was fun, creative, and an unforgettable experience for both the kids and the families.
7. I did not know anything about OFASS before my daughter went. So I had no idea the quality of the program. I was blown away by the showcase and how much the kids learned in such a short amount of time. I'm a teacher and know how much work it takes to get kids ready to perform like that. It was an amazing experience and I'm so glad we found out about it. She is eager to return next summer.
8. OFASS is a great program enriched by the talent and dedicated community members of Oakland celebrating the historic and contemporary arts movements in Oakland.
9. OFASS has been a truly enriching experience for my son; he's developed and fostered new friendships, pushed himself outside of his comfort zone to try new things and succeeded with the support of the caring staff and come out of 3 years of the program with more confidence and a deepening passion for creative expression.
10. This is an exemplary program that makes The Town proud! Please provide more funding to allow more of our kids to participate!
11. Thank you so much to all of the staff. My daughter had a wonderful experience
12. OFASS is a summer staple for our family. We are grateful for the passion and intention behind this program- our kids loved their summer because of OFASS!
13. This summer, our daughter stepped into a world of creativity, discipline, and discovery through OFASS. From learning to play the violin and mastering martial arts, to sewing, weaving, and stage production, she embraced every new challenge with joy. Dance was a familiar friend, but everything else was a bold adventure. We're so proud of how she grew over these four weeks, and we're especially excited that she's thinking of continuing the violin. This experience has truly sparked something beautiful in her.
14. My children were hesitant to start as this was their first time attending OFASS. After the first day, they both came back excited to continue- and that went on for the entire program! It's hard to sustain the interest and enthusiasm of young kids, and OFASS succeeded with flying colors. My kids can't wait to go back. Thank you!!
15. The quality of the OFASS program was tremendous -- the passion of the entire staff, the quality of the arts instruction, the warmth and caring of the school culture. It really has been such a gift that my kiddo got to be part of it. She got to explore new types of arts and activities that she wouldn't have otherwise gotten to try, and it was thrilling getting to watch her stretch herself in new ways and be brave on stage like that. I wouldn't have guessed some of those new talents would be such a fit for her too, so I guess today I've discovered some new interests I want to help her pursue during the year!
THANK YOU, OFASS TEAM!