

Partners in Education Across Kansas (PEAK) Program Introduction

Partners in Education Across Kansas (PEAK) is a professional development program for Kansas K-12 educators administered by the Spencer Museum of Art (SMA) at the University of Kansas. The program is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Spencer Museum of Art has developed and led K-12 teacher professional development for several years. These programs laid the foundation for PEAK's establishment in 2022. PEAK is a program to support K-12 educators throughout Kansas and provide them with the skills and tools to integrate arts and social emotional learning (SEL) into their classrooms. Arts integration has been found to increase student achievement and engagement. PEAK aims to support increased teacher knowledge and classroom implementation of arts integration and to promote self-efficacy and leadership skills in teacher participants.

The objectives of PEAK are to:

1. Increase educators' knowledge and skills in implementation of arts integration, especially the integration with SEL through direct arts experiences.
2. Increase resources available to teachers for arts integration and SEL across multiple disciplines.
3. Increase the social emotional wellbeing of educators and students through arts integration and SEL.
4. Increase educators' arts integration self-efficacy and leadership skills.

PEAK collaborates with licensed art therapists to create program elements that are informed by art therapy practices. Although PEAK is informed by art therapy practices to meet its program objectives, it does not act as a substitute to the work of a professional art therapist.

EXPECTATIONS

PEAK participants receive an annual stipend (see **BENEFITS**, below) if they fulfill program expectations to the best of their ability. These expectations include attendance at workshops during the fall and spring semesters. One workshop is planned each semester. Throughout each semester, participants will work on at least one lesson plan that incorporates art from the SMA's collection with other arts integration and SEL strategies. One final lesson plan must be submitted at the end of each semester. Attendance and participation are also required at regular hour-long Art Breaks during the academic year to be held on Zoom. Approximately eight Art Breaks are scheduled each semester (about two per month), and participants must commit to taking part in at least half of the scheduled Art Breaks (approximately four) each semester. Attendance is also required at a two-day Summer Institute at the end of the academic year. The schedule and format for all components will be shared in advance.

All teachers must complete these expectations and submit self-reflection documents and other evaluations (i.e. surveys) for reporting purposes each semester they are officially enrolled in the program to be considered an active participant and be eligible to receive a stipend for that semester.

Example Schedule of Fall and Spring Semester and Summer PEAK Components (Highlighted items indicate the minimum number of expectations required for participants)

Fall 2023

September 2023

- Fall Art Break #1

October 2023

- Fall Workshop*
- Fall Art Break #2
- Fall Art Break #3

November 2023

- Fall Art Break #4
- Fall Art Break #5

December 2023

- Fall Art Break #6
- Submission of Lesson Plan

Spring 2024

February 2024

- Spring Art Break #1
- Spring Art Break #2

March 2024

- Spring Workshop*
- Spring Art Break #3
- Spring Art Break #4

April 2024

- Spring Art Break #5
- Spring Art Break #6

May 2024

- Spring Art Break #7
- Spring Art Break #8
- Submission of Lesson Plan

Summer 2024

July 2024

- Two-day Summer Institute*

*In-person and requires travel

BENEFITS

Teachers will receive a maximum stipend of \$1,000 for active participation as a regular PEAK participant during the academic year. One half of the stipend (\$500) will be paid at the end of the fall semester, upon completion of participant expectations. The second half of the stipend (\$500) will be paid at the end of the spring semester, following the same criteria. If a participant is only enrolled during one semester of the academic year and completes expectations within reason, then they will receive one half of the stipend (\$500). Teacher Leaders will receive a maximum stipend of \$2,000 paid in two installments of \$1,000 at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Teacher leaders have additional responsibilities and must serve in this role for the entire academic year.

Stipends are paid for each semester of PEAK where a teacher officially enrolls, actively participates, and completes several objectives (see **EXPECTATIONS**). A teacher can attend PEAK events and receive supplies during a semester prior to their official enrollment in the program but will not receive a stipend prior to their official enrollment. Teachers that cannot commit to PEAK for either one or both semesters can still access resources and participate in some events at their leisure without receiving a stipend.

Resources for programs will be provided to PEAK participants. This includes art supplies needed to participate in various program components and a \$100 stipend for classroom supplies. Financial support for travel and professional development experiences are available, as well. PEAK participants will receive support from SMA staff, teachers, art therapists, other professionals, and program partners.