

Dear Administrator,

Thank you for considering a Tacoma Art Museum virtual program for your students! TAM programs are rooted in research and best practices for arts education. Students engage directly with original works of art from our collection, and for some programs, make art of their own. This experience is guided by trained Museum Educators and Teaching Artists.

Research shows that arts education has a marked impact on student learning. Studies at two art museums found increases in students' critical thinking abilities after only one program. Students could transfer those skills to scientific analysis and come to better conclusions than students who had not experienced a museum program. Visual art education has also been shown to increase students' literacy and writing abilities and correlates with higher standardized test scores.

Arts education also has a significant impact on students' social-emotional development. One art museum study found leaps in students' empathy and tolerance after a field trip. Engagement with the arts is predictive of a person's overall civic engagement and tolerance of others.

At TAM, we believe in helping students discover their own talents for art-making and art analysis. Research-based pedagogy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Project Zero informs the curriculum for all our programs. Virtual tours employ Project Zero's Artful Thinking Routines; art-making activities emphasize student choice and voice through the use of Studio Habits of Mind. These activities help students think deeply about art. They also allow students to practice necessary skills for other content areas such as English language arts, science, and math.

Each program is aligned with state content-area standards and focused around an essential question, learning targets, and success criteria. The programs' standards alignment and curriculum focus are available on our website. Teachers can also use our pre-program and post-program curriculum in their classrooms to extend students' learning even further.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by emailing [tours@tacomaartmuseum.org](mailto:tours@tacomaartmuseum.org).

Sincerely,

The Education Department at Tacoma Art Museum