



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: December 9, 2016

Contact: Kristy Callaway, Executive Director, kristy@artsschoolsnetwork.org

Howard Middle School Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts Receives Exemplary School Designation

Howard Middle School Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts has once again been designated an Exemplary School by Arts Schools Network, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools. The school first received this designation in 2014 and will now keep the designation through 2018.

It was created to highlight a school's commitment to excellence, this designation is presented to an Arts Schools Network member school in recognition of its efforts to evaluate strategically its purpose, operations, and educational programs. This honor signifies that Howard Middle School Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts has successfully completed a self-evaluation in the following areas: strengths, areas for improvement, consistency with school-wide or program purposes, aspirations, and future challenges.

Howard Middle School is a public arts magnet in Orlando, FL with both zoned and non-zoned students. Due to the explosive growth and popularity of the Visual and Performing Arts program it is slated to become a magnet-only school. The magnet program was created by the Orange County School board in 2011 and is the only middle school arts magnet in the district.

Howard provides a rigorous academic curriculum in addition to stellar arts programs with numerous partnerships in the Central Florida arts community. All magnet students are enrolled in advanced core courses that integrate the arts into the curriculum, providing enhanced opportunities for high school and college preparation. Students are able to explore exciting classes in Art, Ceramics, Graphic Design, Photography, Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Theatre, Dance, Guitar, Piano, and Music Theory. Students interested in Musical Theatre may participate in two grand performances a year. Students have many other opportunities to share their work and talent through various exhibits, concerts, recitals, and competitions as well as extracurricular programs in Show Choir, Dance Troupe, Art Club, Jazz Band, Electric Orchestra, Creative Writing, and Jr. Thespians.



Conveniently located in the heart of downtown Orlando near many arts venues and organizations, Howard's beautiful historic building is a perfect setting for creative minded students to explore all the arts can offer.

About Arts Schools Network

Dedicated to excellence and leadership in arts education, Arts Schools Network, a non-profit professional organization founded in 1981, is a dynamic resource for arts school leaders, innovative partners and members of arts education institutions. Arts Schools Network is dedicated to providing teachers, administrators, and arts schools' leaders with quality resources, support, professional development, and networking opportunities. For more than 35 years, ASN has offered informational and inspirational programs, communications, and services, and helped arts educators share best practices, experiences, and expertise. Visit the website at www.artsschoolsnetwork.org to learn more.

About Orange County Public Schools

Orange County Public Schools is the 10th-largest school district in the nation and the fourth-largest in Florida. Close to 204,000 students are enrolled. Currently, there are more than 242 school sites including alternative centers and charter schools. OCPS is the second-largest employer in [Orange County, Florida](#) with more than 23,000 full- and part-time employees. The district was the recipient of the 2014 Broad Prize for Urban Education, the largest education award in the country. The district also received the Governor's Sterling Award in 2014 and 2015. It is the highest award an organization can receive for business performance excellence in Florida.

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