**Big Idea C**

**CRITICAL THINKING and REFLECTION:** Critical and creative thinking, self-expression, and communication with others are central to the arts.

1. Cognition and reflection are required to appreciate, interpret, and create with artistic intent.
2. Assessing our own and others’ artistic work, through critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making, is central to artistic growth.
3. The processes of critiquing works of art lead to development of critical-thinking skills transferable to other contexts.

**Big Idea S**

**SKILLS, TECHNIQUES, and PROCESSES:** Through dance, music, theatre, and visual art, students learn that beginners, amateurs, and professionals benefit from working to improve and maintain skills over time.

1. The arts are inherently experiential and actively engage learners in the processes of creating, interpreting, and responding to art.
2. Development of skills, techniques, and processes in the arts strengthens our ability to remember, focus on, process, and sequence information.
3. Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

**Big Idea O**

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:** Works in dance, music, theatre, and visual art are organized by elements and principles that guide creators, interpreters, and responders.

1. Understanding the organizational structure of an art form provides a foundation for appreciation of artistic works and respect for the creative process.
2. The structural rules and conventions of an art form serve as both a foundation and departure point for creativity.
3. Every art form uses its own unique language, verbal and non-verbal, to document and communicate with the world.

**Big Idea H**

**HISTORICAL and GLOBAL CONNECTIONS:** Experiences in the arts foster understanding, acceptance, and enrichment among individuals, groups, and cultures from around the world and across time.

1. Through study in the arts, we learn about and honor others and the world in which they live(d).
2. The arts reflect and document cultural trends and historical events, and help explain how new directions in the arts have emerged.
3. Connections among the arts and other disciplines strengthen learning and the ability to transfer knowledge and skills to and from other fields.

**Big Idea F**

**INNOVATION, TECHNOLOGY, and the FUTURE:** Curiosity, creativity, and the challenges of artistic problems drive innovation and adaptation of new and emerging technologies.

1. Creating, interpreting, and responding in the arts stimulate the imagination and encourage innovation and creative risk-taking.
2. Careers in and related to the arts significantly and positively impact local and global economies.
3. The 21st-century skills necessary for success as citizens, workers, and leaders in a global economy are embedded in the study of the arts.