



# SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

August 2016

## ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### Fine Art Programs

Perfecting the transition. Mixing the most amazing color. Hitting the note. Rehearsing it one more time. Getting that homework finished. Hating your alarm clock.

Students who participate in the fine arts work hard. Their commitment is unwavering. Their creativity is amazing. And their accomplishments are outstanding. Time after time, study after study, participation in the Fine Arts has shown to be an accurate predictor of future success. The Arts are Smart!

*Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective."*

- Bill Clinton, former US President

*I tell my football players that it was the athletic program at Triopia that made me a player, but it was Jr. High speech contest that made me a coach. That's where I learned to express myself."*

--Jay Wessler, former head football coach, Triopia High School and member of state champion IHSA football team

*"Art helps students develop and showcase their creativity and problem solving skills. These skills are in great demand in the 21st century workplace as companies seek out individuals who can help them prosper by creating innovative products and services".*

- John Rokenbrod, Assistant Principal

### 2016 Fine Art Award Winners

The "go getters" who earned the Fine Arts recognition awards -- the Distinguished Service Award and the Class Act Award -- are a group of teacher-coaches who have set the bar high. Awards are presented in the activities of Speech and Music.

Given for the first time during the 2009-10 school year, the criteria for the two awards is similar. The recipients must be actively involved in IESA Speech or Music. The recipients must demonstrate the ability to develop and promote standards of good performance practices, integrity and life skills within their students. The contributions of the award winners must have positively impacted students and the school community.

For the Distinguished Service Award winner, the contributions must be significant and/or long term for someone involved with Speech or Music for over eight years of teaching and coaching. For the Class Act Award winner,

the contributions are from someone involved with Speech or Music for at least 3 and not more than 8 years of teaching and coaching.

**Kathy Brake**, who has been teaching at Fisher Junior High School for 35 years, and has coached the speech team for 28 years, is the 2016 Distinguished Speech Service Award winner.

**Steve Betz**, a 32 year music educator for Bradley Central Middle School, was selected for the 2016 Distinguished Music Service Award.

**Beth Nuss**, a 34 year music educator from Paxton Buckley Loda Junior High School, was also selected for the 2016 Distinguished Music Service Award.

#### Mark on your calendar:

- Speech Workshop– Friday, September 16, 2016, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, IL
- Scholastic Bowl Workshop– Friday, November 4 2016, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, IL

#### Send Us Your Stories!

The IESA would love to share the impact and experiences of your fine art programs!

- If you have stories, newspaper articles, clippings, links, photos community service projects, etc. we would love to help share and promote your fine art programs and students through our web resources.
- Send your information to [nicole@iesa.org](mailto:nicole@iesa.org)