Why Opera?

Opera is multi-disciplinary, involving music, theater, movement, dance, and visual arts. Through opera, students have opportunities to learn and grow in several art forms simultaneously.

With connections to other classroom subjects, including language arts, social studies, and foreign language, opera provides a powerful strategy for integrated instruction.

Opera-Based Learning

Opera-based learning is an instructional approach that uses the elements of opera to develop essential skills for student achievement. Libretto writing, music composition, staging, acting, singing, literary analysis, and critical response are applied as strategies for classroom learning.

Students sing songs and create and perform their own operatic works based on stories, poems, or historical events from classroom curriculum. All programs also include opportunities for students to see live performances at the Metropolitan Opera.

Through the process of creating, performing, and responding to opera, students develop critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration skills.

Research-Based Practice

We are committed to innovation, and strive to capture, apply, and share learning amongst ourselves and with others.

All school programs feature:

- connections to national, state, and local curriculum standards
- inquiry-based teaching strategies
- documentation and assessment of student learning
- action research methodology

* Students in grades 3 – 12 in the NY Metro area have the opportunity to attend a final dress rehearsal, based on availability. Operatic work is shared in the classroom for Pre-K – 2nd grade through photographs, video, audio, and live in-school performances, based on availability.
Create, Present, Attend, and CONNECT with Opera

Opera-based learning is thoughtfully connected to other classroom learning, and includes opportunities for students to create, present, attend, and connect through opera.

**CREATE**

Students write/compose.stage opera to communicate ideas artistically

- **Music:** Write/Compose
- **Theater:** Write/Direct/Stage
- **Dance:** Choreograph
- **Visual Art:** Design

**CONNECT**

- **Arts Skills**
- **Academic Skills**
- **Socio-Personal Skills**
- **Meta-Cognitive Skills**

**ANALYZE/RESPOND**

Students view/listen/respond to models of artistic excellence

- Analyze Source Material
- Respond to artistic examples
- Experience and Reflect
- Evaluate artistic examples

**PRESENT/PERFORM**

Students build technical and performance skills

- **Music:** Sing/Play Instrument
- **Theater:** Act
- **Dance:** Dance
- **Visual Art:** Build/Draw/Paint, etc.

Through Opera-based learning students develop skills in the artistic, socio-personal, and meta-cognitive realms by creating, responding, and presenting operatic material.

Collaboration is a key feature. Classroom teachers work with Guild artists to plan and deliver arts instruction for students. As a team they provide opportunities for student group work and discussion but also allow for individual thought and expression. Students work toward a common goal and negotiate multiple ideas to achieve that goal.