



FFCA Performing Arts Philosophy:

FFCA is known not only for excellence in student academic achievement, leadership, and character development, but also for the Performing Arts that guide students in developing skills outside the academic classroom.

The Performing Arts program at FFCA seeks to meet the following goals:

- * Create an atmosphere of transformational leadership where students, in all productions, take on leadership roles in every aspect of the creation of quality productions, with support from specialist teachers.
- * Provide students with opportunities in performance and technical theatre that challenge and extend their expertise and creativity.
- * Establish a caring and nurturing environment for students to grow creatively and emotionally, building foundational relationships of support and trust.
- * Encourage a lifelong appreciation for performing arts through students viewing, participating, and reflecting on excellent work.

FFCA Performing Arts provides students quality performance opportunities, including:

- A Musical, Semester One
- AHSDFA One Act Plays, Semester Two
- A Grade 9/10 Production, Semester Two
- Class Acts for Drama 10, 20, 30: December and May
- Choral Performances through Concert Choir, throughout the year
- Guitar Performances throughout the year

Productions are selected with a vision to provide students with opportunities to participate in a variety of performance styles and play genres, and to experience various leadership roles.

Courses offered in the Performing Arts at FFCA include:

1. Drama 9, 10, 20, 30
2. Advanced Acting 9, 15, 25, 35
3. Musical Theatre 9, 15, 25, 35
4. Choral Music 9, 10, 20, 30
5. Instrumental Music (Guitar) 9, 10, 20, 30
6. Technical Theatre 9, 15, 25, 35

Teachers offering courses in Performing Arts at FFCA High School are specialists, who are also professional performance artists themselves.

The Arts programming at FFCA High School has been a pivotal cultural heartbeat in our school community for the past 16 years, providing hundreds of students opportunities for character development, leadership, and excellence.

- **FFCA Arts unifies community and belonging**
- **FFCA Arts provide essential leadership opportunities**, through grades 9-12 mentorship and collaboration in major projects
- **FFCA Arts provide opportunities for character development**, which help build confidence, self-awareness, self-respect, self-discipline, organizational abilities, cooperation, collaboration, unity, fellowship, and resiliency. The list goes on.
- **FFCA Arts provide critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills**, allowing students to take the time to be more careful and thorough in how they observe the world.

- **FFCA Arts provides Excellence in Performance and Project Development**
- **FFCA Arts improve individual well-being and mental health**
- **FFCA Arts improve academic performance, especially in literacy and mathematics.** Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students regardless of socio-economic status.
- **FFCA Arts spark creativity and innovation.**
- **FFCA Arts drive the creative industries.** The Creative Industries are arts businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theaters to for-profit film, architecture, and design companies. As well our students find careers in medicine, law, teaching, engineering, etc.
- **FFCA Arts have social impact.**

A note about FFCA Performing Arts in the Province:

Every year, FFCA prepares, produces, and performs in the AHSDFA (Alberta High School Drama Festival Association) festival. This is a play festival where we compete at the Zone level and then potentially the provincial level. Our Zone festival (Zone 9) occurs at the end of April/ beginning of May yearly, and is a festival with other schools from the Calgary area. This is an opportunity to perform and receive critical feedback from two professional theatre adjudicators: Artistic and Technical. At the end of the festival, each school's performances are given both public and private professional adjudication sessions, complete with positive and critical feedback, and awards are given to deserving performers, technicians, and performances. Of course, every group dreams of the coveted "Outstanding Production" award, which advances the particular production on to the Provincial Festival held in the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center at Red Deer College in mid May.

FFCA High School has been selected to represent the Calgary zone at Provincials for ten years in a row; no other school in the province in the 50 year history of the festival has achieved this exceptional milestone.

From the President of the AHSDFA festival:

"Every year, FFCA's incredibly strong performances garner numerous awards for acting, directing and professionalism. Few other schools in the province are as highly regarded on Red Deer College's stage as FFCA. The quality of work presented by your students whether on stage or behind the scenes has been truly exemplary. By my count, FFCA has won 56 awards and nearly all of these have been for outstanding achievement.

Perhaps even more important than talent is the strength of character your students and teachers bring to our festival year after year. They are unfailingly gracious and humble with the other participants and demonstrate exactly the attitude and dedication to the performing arts that we hope all our participants will model.

Once again, congratulations to FFCA on this remarkable accomplishment! I look forward to working with your students and teachers again at next year's 50th anniversary festival."

FFCA Performing Arts welcomes all students into this strong and beautiful community. No experience required. Just bring your passions, your openness, and your hearts. Infinite love and gratitude!