



SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

August 2023

ILLINOIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Performing Art Programs

Perfecting the transition. Finding the perfect script. Hitting the note. Rehearsing it one more time. Getting that homework finished. Hating your alarm clock.

Students who participate in the performing 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 Performing 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

2023 Performing Art Award Winners

The "go getters" who earned the Performing 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 3-8 years of teaching and coaching.

Natasha Jones, who has coached the speech team at Manteno for 5 years, is the 2023 Class Act Award winner.

Nina Andrews, who has coached the speech team at Dunlap Valley MS for over 10 years, is the 2023 Distinguished Speech Service Award winner.

Lynn Mueller will receive the Ken Bradbury Lifetime Service Award.

Jennifer Woodrow, who has served as the Vocal Director at Danville North Ridge for over 20 years is the 2023 Distinguished Music Service Award winner.

Mark on your calendar:

- Speech Workshop-- Will not be held in 2023
- Scholastic Bowl Workshop-- Will be held in November at the Double Tree Hotel in

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