

November 25, 2020

Dear CES Families:

The Unified Arts team hopes you have a safe, peaceful, and joyful Thanksgiving. The UA team consists of Art, Music, Physical Education, Library and Technology, and was previously referred to as “Specials.” We are now using the term “**Unified Arts**” **since we are a unified team** that is working together in a variety of ways. One of the ways we are working together is through how we support the **Second Step program** across our school.

Students are currently learning about Second Step in their classrooms through weekly lessons about topics such as **respect, empathy, and focus**. In UA classes we are not teaching these specific lessons, but rather we are enforcing the concepts and terminology the students are learning in their Second Step lessons.

Our main focus as a UA team is the reinforcement of full body listening. This skill consists of the following components:

*eyes watching,
ears listening,
voice quiet, and
body still.*

Most recently “*brain thinking*” has been added as well. Students in kindergarten through 4th grade continually hear these phrases in class to reinforce **the ideas of respect and focus**, as well as other skills taught through Second Step. The students respond very positively and have fun while doing so. In art, the students use Mona Lisa as a reminder for full body listening, and in music the students use Lady Gaga as a reminder for full body listening.

We will continue to reinforce the skills taught in Second Step throughout the year, and use these skills as a guide when looking at each students’ “responsible behavior” for report cards. **Our classrooms look different this year in many ways, but we are so happy to see the students every day and have the opportunity to learn, grow, and create with them.**

Sincerely,
The Unified Arts Team

Art: Mrs. Harrington
sharrington@canterburypublicschools.org

PE: Mr. Fresco-Hawes
chawes@canterburypublicschools.org

Music: Ms. Tackett
jtackett@canterburypublicschools.org

Technology: Mrs. Giuliano
cgiuliano@canterburypublicschools.org

Library: Mrs. Sweeney
ksweeney@canterburypublicschools.org