

Background/research/situation analysis Opera may not be the first subject that comes to mind for elementary education, but at Russell Boulevard and Grant Elementary Schools, it has become a transformative learning tool thanks to the Metropolitan Operas HD Live in Schools Program. This partnership introduces students to the world of opera while enhancing interdisciplinary learning in reading comprehension, story structure, character analysis, and cultural understanding. Through engaging classroom activities, opera clubs, and live performance viewings, students are discovering that opera is more than just music; it's an accessible and enriching art form that aligns with Missouri Learning Standards. Teachers like Kara Johnson have embraced opera as a tool for teaching critical thinking, narrative understanding, and cultural appreciation, offering students both in-class learning and the excitement of live performance experiences.

Goal To share with our target audience how integrating opera into classroom instruction and extracurricular activities enriches student learning in interdisciplinary arts education. Increase student engagement and cultural awareness by using opera as a tool for developing critical literacy and comprehension skills.

Objective Share the Story (Create Awareness) A captivating video will showcase how opera is transforming learning at Russell Boulevard and Grant Elementary. The video will feature classroom lessons, student reactions, and the excitement of attending a live performance of *The Magic Flute*. Interviews with teacher Kara Johnson and students will highlight how opera fosters literacy, cultural appreciation, and critical thinking skills. The video will be shared via CPSTV, social media, the district website, and newsletters, ensuring broad engagement. This storytelling approach will underscore how partnerships like the Met Opera HD Live in Schools Program make the arts accessible and inspiring for all students.

Key Messages

1. Opera as a Learning Tool: Opera enhances critical skills like reading comprehension, story analysis, and cultural awareness.
2. Accessibility in the Arts: Opera is for everyone, and through creative teaching methods, it becomes an engaging and approachable art form for students of all backgrounds.
3. Community and Connection: Experiencing live opera performances connects students to global cultures and enriches their educational journey.

Strategies

1. Digital Storytelling: Produce high-quality video content including interviews with students and teachers that seamlessly blends event coverage with personal testimonials, ensuring

the story is both engaging and informative. 2. Multi-Channel Distribution: Air the video on CPS-TV and promote it through internal newsletters and encourage attending schools to share the video on owned social media channels to maximize reach. 3. Engagement: Using the CPS-TV distribution platform, capture viewership information. Evaluation Since airing on January 21, 2025, the viewing audience has watched the story 479 of times. Additionally, it has been viewed 55 more times since on-demand viewing became available. The video was also shared on the Sharing the Gold internal newsletter.