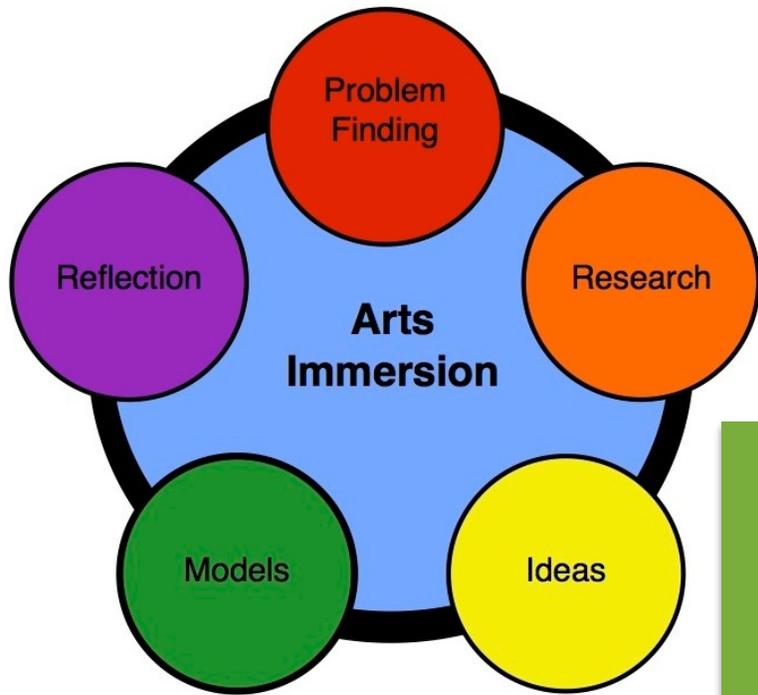


Children and Community that value arts and learning!



Design Thinking

As a charter goal, Calgary Arts Academy has begun to explore the concept of Design Thinking and how it relates to Arts Immersion. Dr. Robert Kelly from the University of Calgary has advised and assisted us with the idea that design thinking can be a further development and evolution to Arts Immersion.

Through literature, professional development dialogues and action research, our goal is to develop a common understanding of what design thinking looks like at Calgary Arts Academy and how we can enable our students to methodically apply creativity and design process principles.

Design thinking and Arts Immersion reinforce and promote the tenets embodied by Alberta Education's Inspiring Education document.



What is Design Thinking?

Dr. Kelly defines design thinking as consisting of the methods and processes for investigating problems, acquiring information, analyzing knowledge, developing alternatives, and prototyping in the design and planning fields across a wide range of disciplines.

The art form becomes the cross curricular focal point in which the skills and knowledge of the interdisciplinary work can be realized.

What is the impact?

First, by requiring the use of multiple lenses when looking at a problem, design thinking demonstrates that bringing together seemingly disparate perspectives can often be the key to finding effective solutions. This encourages students to be as well versed and 'literate' in as many subjects as possible, as they begin to understand that the most complex problems are often best solved through an interdisciplinary approach.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, design thinking emphasizes that collaboration and the use of outside resources are critical to both the learning and problem solving process—a notion that will be valuable to their scholarly, professional and personal lives.



Design thinking enables students to become Engaged Thinkers and Ethical Citizens with an Entrepreneurial Spirit.

Design thinking teaches students that the best solutions are those that are empathy-driven and end-user-centric. Students understand the perspective that an answer to a problem is only as good as the end-user finds it to be. This gives a new and valuable skill set that compliments the traditional empirical or logic-based problem solving methodologies. With this combination, students begin to grasp the idea that no answer is perfect. There are often many ways to frame and address a single problem.

A superior understanding of design thinking (in particular its principles around collaboration and human centricity) will enhance student understanding of strategy, leadership and communication.

A generation of students raised on design thinking will be more capable of leading existing enterprises, institutions and organizations into the future and navigating the unknown roads ahead.

Design thinking inspires the confidence that everyone can be part of creating a more desirable future.

Design thinking is a process that enables us to take action when faced with difficult challenges.

The challenges students are confronted with are real, complex, and varied.

They require new perspectives, new tools, and new approaches. Design thinking is one of them.

Problem Finding	Research	Ideas	Models	Reflect
empathy	goal and why	brainstorm	quick solutions	test
observing and engaging	resourceful	generate ideas	action	reflect
point of view	understand problem	ideation	models	feedback
tenacious	shared values	collaboration	execute	refining
inspiration	research	creativity	stories	communicate
inquiry	experience	open mind	visualizations	critical thinking