To Whom It May Concern,

As the new PreK-12 Visual Arts Supervisor of Pinellas County Schools, I am so very pleased with the strong partnership our educational organization presently has with the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg. I am amazed at all of the wonderful projects and activities the MFA make possible for the benefit of our K-12 public school students.

All 6th grade students in our middle school social studies courses have the opportunity, thanks to the Pinellas Referendum, to take field trips to the MFA for in-depth tours, called “Art as Evidence”. These important learning experiences tie directly into the social studies curriculum and positively impact the students’ scholarly growth. Other classroom teachers, including visual arts educators, take their students on field trips to the MFA to learn about the spectacular spectrum of artworks from ancient to modern times. As of this date, there have already been 5,667 students and 639 adults who have visited the MFA from Pinellas County Schools since the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. During June and July, teachers take their classes to the MFA as part of a supplemental education program called “Summer Bridge”. These are coordinated with the MFA and learning experiences are based on a specifically-designed curriculum.

Additionally, the MFA has been a major partner of the Visual Arts Department's Traveling Art Mobile Program. Over the span of three years, this traveling portable is circulated throughout our district visiting at nearly every Pinellas County public elementary school. K-5 students have the opportunity to visit the art mobile with their visual arts teacher while it is stationed at their school, resulting in approximately 13,000 students attending every year. As they take the 30-40 minute tour inside, students enjoy a museum-like experience specific to their grade level, learning about various artists, the history and meaning of the artworks, and have close-up interactive experiences with the selected reproduced pieces. The Art Mobile program has made it possible for our elementary students to experience the look and feel of an art museum without even leaving their school.

The MFA’s Pinellas High School Exhibition is a highlight on our district exhibition calendar for the simple reason that students really love the idea of having their artwork on display in an art museum! Each high school art teacher submits five of their students’ artworks for adjudication. Only 60 works are accepted but the work quality is always museum-worthy and displayed beautifully. The MFA also hosts a reception and awards ceremony for the students and their families, which is always well-attended. This student show, with the theme of “visual metaphor”, has been going on for a number of years and is one of the most creative and exciting to see.

Thank you for your continuing partnership and dedicated support to the K-12 students in Pinellas County Schools. We are so very appreciative of all you do!

Kind Regards,

Jonathan Ogle
PreK-12 Visual Arts Supervisor
Pinellas County Schools