



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

In Catholic Schools Curriculum

As proposed at the 2009 Theological Update Day

The Archdiocese of Seattle Catholic Schools department collaborated closely with the office of Parish Stewardship to develop curriculum suggestions based on 'The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship,' for presentation at the 2009 Theological Update Day. The resulting goal of this event was for our schools to include in their curriculums a grade and 'Garden' focus for each month of the school year.

The suggested focus for June is the Garden of The Arts, in the Art and Reading curriculums.

Below are materials that you will find useful in implementing this goal. These tools are designed to be edited and adapted – if preferred - according to the specific curriculum needs of your school.

Attached Contents:

- **Prayer Service for Staff Meetings for Garden of The Arts**
- **Self Assessment for Staff Meetings for Garden of The Arts**
- **Online Curriculum Examples for Garden of The Arts**
- **Bulletin Board Idea for Garden of The Arts**
- **Suggested Notes for Parent Packets for Garden of The Arts**

You will find these materials and much more – including lesson plans and class activity ideas from educators who participated at the 2009 Theological Update Day - at the Archdiocesan webpage designated for incorporating the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' into our Catholic schools curriculums: www.seattlearch.org/gardens



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Prayer Service for Staff Meetings

Garden of the Arts

Let us Pray:

Lord,

You are the sower and reaper, the planter and harvester. We are eager to cultivate the gifts in the fertile soil of hearts open to You.

Reading from Scripture:

"Praise the Lord! . . . Praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!" *Psalms 150*

Meditation – How are we cultivating our gifts?

Am I grateful for God's gift of artistic creativity? Do I take time to notice and appreciate the art all around me? Do I want to explore and develop my artistic creativity? Do I appreciate and support the creativity of others? How may I see God in the artistic creativity of humanity?

Closing:

Lord,

The seed that fell on rich ground yielded a harvest of thirty, sixty, or one hundred fold. May the seeds that You have planted in our hearts, in all the gardens where we are called to be good stewards, produce a rich harvest for building up Your Kingdom. Amen.



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Self Assessment for Staff Meetings

*Thoughts on each of the Twelve Gardens within the Four Pillars of Stewardship:
Prayer, Formation, Hospitality and Service*

Garden of the Arts

“Praise the Lord! . . . Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes!” Psalms 150

Our world would be a dull place without the many arts. Think of a world without music, literature, visual arts, performance arts, and all forms of artistic creativity. Our creative abilities are a great gift from God. We are called to support and explore artistic creativity, both our own and the artistic creativity of others.

Prayer

Think of a time that you experienced a magnificent piece of music or an inspirational painting. What were your thoughts about the artist that created it? What were your thoughts about our God who gave that artist the ability to create such beauty? How can you thank God for your own creative gifts?

Formation

Consider your artistic or creative gifts from God. What can you do to enhance those gifts? What opportunities for engaging in the creation of beauty are within your reach? Think of an artistic form that you’ve always wanted to try, but haven’t. How can you create an opportunity to do so? Consider ways to take time to experience artistic endeavors that inspire you.

Hospitality

In what ways can you use God’s gift of creativity so that those who encounter you will encounter a sense of God’s beauty – whether it is support and encouragement for the arts, or your own artistic creation?

Service

Think of how you may support the arts in your community. What opportunities are available for visiting museums, local art shows and art fairs, or professional and amateur performances in your city or community. How can you use your own artistic gifts to enhance the lives of others?



Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Online Curriculum Examples

Garden of the Arts

The Stewardship website, Learning to Give, offers a wide variety of lesson plans which may be used to incorporate the Twelve Gardens of Stewardship into your curriculum. Though philanthropy is the filter for many of these lesson plans, you will find a large number of appropriate choices and useful ideas. Here are instructions for reviewing a lesson plan that you may wish to draw from for your own use:

Path:

- Go to 'Learning to Give' www.learningtogive.org
- Click on top of page 'Find Lesson Plans'
- Select Keyword option
- Choose grade. If prompted to select a subject, you may wish to select 'All.' Select letter of a keyword to view lesson plans within that subject.
- To select the most appropriate lesson plan for your class, place the curser over the view icons and review a brief summary of each plan.

For the Garden of the Arts, if you choose [‘All’ Grades – Letter V for Visual Arts](#), you will find over 150 different lesson plans for all grades in various Visual Arts categories.



Garden of the Arts

Reading/Art Classes

Creativity is a gift from God and is manifest in every form of art. Stewardship of the arts includes recognizing that we have each been given a measure of this gift, and are called to nurture and use our creativity, as well value the creativity of others. What are some ways we nurture our creativity by participating in the Arts?

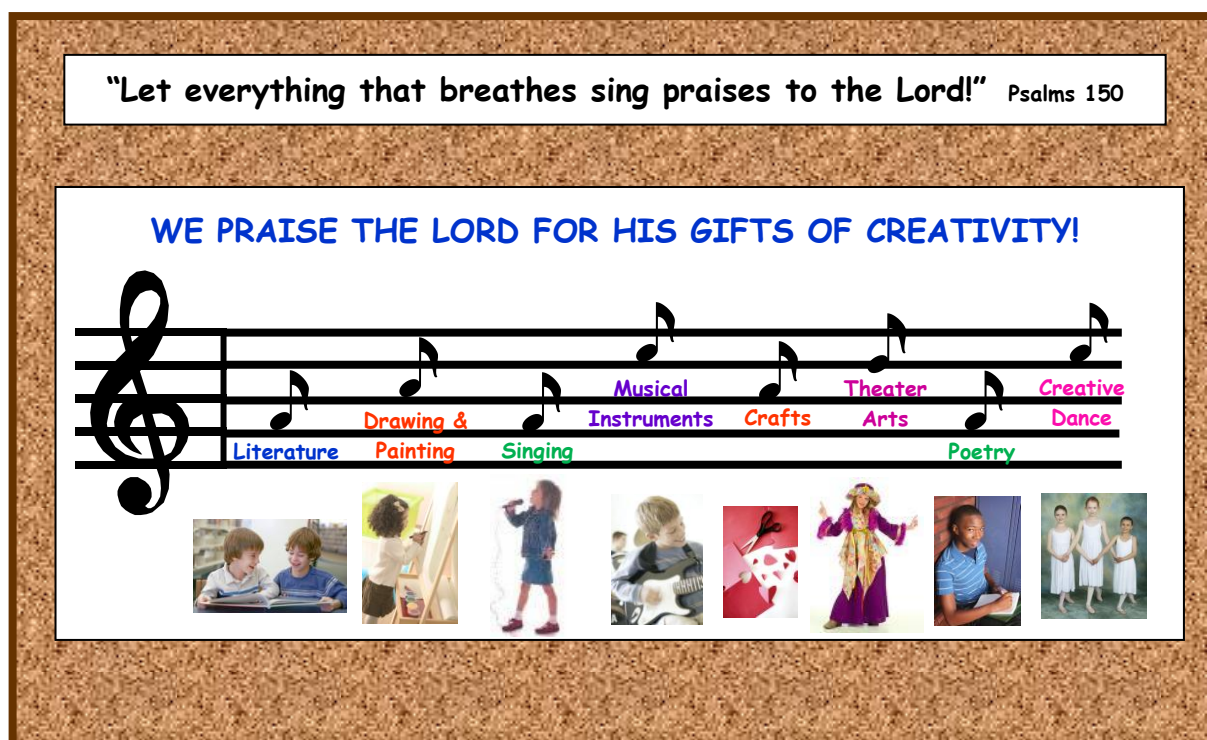
Project

- Title bulletin board: 'We Praise the Lord for His Gifts of Creativity!' and with quote from Psalms 150
- Draw a large musical staff with lines and notes, as shown.
- Using each note to indicate an aspect of the creative arts, label the note with that art. Below are some suggestions.
- Use photos to illustrate each of these arts. Sources may be photos of (or from) the students, magazine clippings or downloaded online images.

Suggested Quotes

"Praise the Lord! . . . Praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!" Psalms 150

"Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth." Psalms 96:1



SUGGESTED NOTES FOR PARENT PACKETS

Parents appreciate knowing what their children are learning in school! Here are ways you might include the 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' concepts in your weekly packet of information to school parents.

Please feel free to use this suggested title, graphic logo and introductory text – and to **edit and adapt** the following 'Garden' sections according to your needs.



The Twelve Gardens of Stewardship

Applying Christian Stewardship to Every Area of Our Lives

Suggested
← Title

↓
Suggested
Introduction

Being good stewards includes recognizing God's gifts in every area of our lives and using these gifts responsibly, in love and justice – to ourselves as well as toward others. The 'Twelve Gardens of Stewardship' is a concept which identifies twelve different areas of our everyday life in which we should be mindful of conducting ourselves within the will of God. During the school year, our students will focus on one or more of these gardens. This June, our students will focus on the Garden of The Arts.

Garden of the Arts

Creativity is a gift from God and is manifest in every form of art. Stewardship of the arts includes recognizing that we have each been given a measure of this gift, and are called to nurture and use our creativity, as well value the creativity of others. This month, the students in Art (and/or Reading) class will explore ways to appreciate the arts and to recognize and develop their own creativity.