

*anything is possible*

# OREGON Small Schools INITIATIVE

## Renaissance Arts Academy RA<sup>2</sup>

3905 SE 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97266 (503) 916 5240

<http://www.marshall.pps.k12.or.us/.docs/pg/10054>

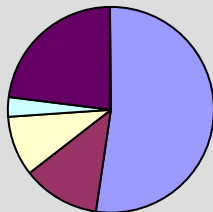
Principal: Fred Locke

Renaissance Arts Academy, RA<sup>2</sup>, is a small college preparatory, arts-focused high school on the Marshall campus. Committed to Expeditionary Learning (EL) principles, RA<sup>2</sup> believes in student-centered learning that challenges students to think critically and ponder relevant issues. The central goal is for each RA<sup>2</sup> student to graduate well-educated, fully prepared for college, a career or serious continued study in visual performing arts.

The following data reflects 2007-2008, unless otherwise noted

### Student Population

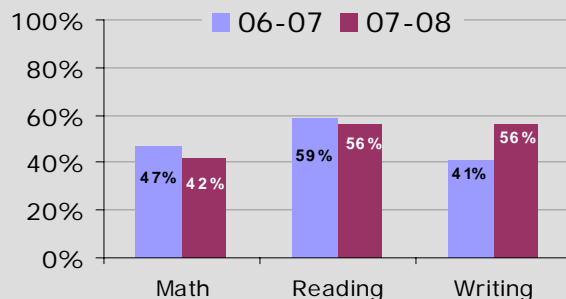
Total Enrollment	229
Low-income students	74.0%
English language learners	10.5%



European American - 52%
Asian/Pacific Islander - 12%
African American - 9%
American Indian - 3%
Latino, Hispanic- 23%
Other- 1%

### Student Achievement

10<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting or exceeding state benchmarks



Sources: Oregon Department of Education and ra2

### A first for Oregon

In September 2004, Marshall High School, in outer Southeast Portland, became one of the first large high schools in Oregon to convert into autonomous, small schools. Marshall's conversion was in direct response to challenges it faced: only 25 percent of students met 10th grade benchmarks in math and reading, and the school's poor reputation in the community resulted in persistent decreases in enrollment. At Marshall, close to 60 percent of students are from low-income families and almost 40 percent are students of color. When planning the three schools, staff focused on creating a plan to turn student achievement around. Marshall's three autonomous schools offer a rigorous, personalized college preparatory curriculum each with a unique educational approach. Of the three original academies, BizTech Academy and Renaissance Arts Academy continue to partner with E3 to continue improving their work.

**E3**

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